

+  
Funny Games: The Movie You'll Love To Hate  
Julien Arnold Is Alive And Well And Directing In Edmonton  
How To Survive Four More Years Of The Tories  
Ace Frehley: We Could Kiss You



# SEE

## SERJ TANKIAN

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Alberta's opposition parties must learn to exploit bogeymen if they want to gain any traction.

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Reclaiming the quintessential Irish holiday through booze—no fake brogues allowed.

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Ace Frehley says he's doing just fine without his "cold gin"—or the band that made him famous.

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*Funny Games*' audience-alienating shenanigans might actually cause a riot in the theatre.

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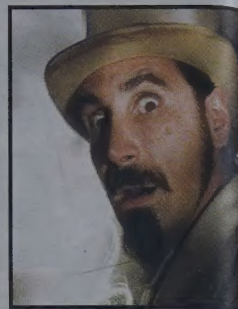
Newly recovered from a near-death scare, Julien Arnold merrily journeys into *The Lonesome West*.

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The assholes in your homophobic hometown are living in prison, gay teen—one you will be escaping soon.

## 50 the back ASSORTED GOODIES

Comics, crossword, and more.



## THINK TANKIAN

The System of a Down frontman fights the big, bad American system with words and music—and a little gibberish.  
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THE HATE THAT THIS MOVIE WILL GENERATE IS THE KIND OF HATE THAT WILL  
PERSIST FOR GENERATIONS.

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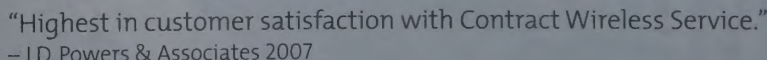
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James Rosati's *Edmonton*, part of *Seeing Through Modernism* at the Art Gallery of Alberta**MARCH 16**

music | **SERJ TANKIAN**  
The System of a Down front-man and spiffily bearded SEE cover boy brings his solo show to the Edmonton Event Centre.

**MARCH 17**

film | **CANADA'S TOP TEN SHORT FILMS** From west to east, film to animation, some of the best short films in Canada, all lined up like 10 ducks in one very entertaining row. At Metro Cinema.

**MARCH 18**

theatre | **THE LONESOME WEST** Irish playwright Martin McDonagh's "Leenane Trilogy," of which this play is the final entry, was called "gleefully macabre" by *The New York Times*. Hey, that's the best kind of macabre! At the Roxy Theatre.

**MARCH 19**

art | **SMALL** Is it just us, or is everything getting smaller? Cellphones, cars... and have you seen those new iMacs? They're practically invisible! Until March 24, The Art Gallery of Alberta explores whether the tinyfication of everything is mucking up our perspective.

**MARCH 20**

dvd | **SHE'S GOTTA HAVE IT** It's Spike Lee's birthday! Celebrate by renting his rambunctious 1986 debut film, newly issued on home video by MGM. Please baby, please baby, please baby, baby baby please!

**MARCH 21**

benefit | **BUSKER'S BALL**  
A benefit for the Parkland Institute, featuring music and more. At Naked on Jasper.

**MARCH 22**

music | **OILERS VS. AVALANCHE** They didn't make the playoffs, but let's show the boys we love 'em anyway. At Rexall Place and on TVs everywhere.

**MARCH 23**

art | **SEEING THROUGH MODERNISM** Until May 3, the AGA presents a look at Edmonton's position as a leader in modernist art in the '70s and '80s—we'll leave it for you to decide whether that just means Edmonton was way behind the postmodernist times.

**MARCH 24**

film | **THE TRACEY FRAGMENTS** The other buzzed-about Ellen Page indie flick. Or maybe substitute "hugely overshadowed" for "buzzed-about." Page plays a troubled teen in director Bruce McDonald's experiential drama. At Metro Cinema.

**MARCH 25**

music | **JASON COLLETT**  
Broken Social Scene's Jason Collett is musically bipolar: it's either soft folksiness or distorted mayhem. We can't wait to see how he strikes a balance live. At the Starlite Room.

**MARCH 26**

music | **JULIE DOIRON**  
"Venerable" is usually just critic-speak for "been around for a long time and did a bunch of different stuff." But when it comes to the lovely, venerable Julie Doiron, we really mean it. At the Velvet Underground.

**MARCH 27**

ballet | **ANASTASIA** The drama of the youngest Romanov daughter, presented by the innovative Ballet Jorgen Canada. At the MacLab Centre For The Performing Arts.

Jason Collett plays *The Starlite Room* on March 25

Film | MAR 24



**THE TRACEY FRAGMENTS IS THE OTHER BUZZED-ABOUT ELLEN PAGE INDIE FLICK. OR MAYBE SUBSTITUTE 'DWARFED' FOR 'BUZZED-ABOUT'.**

**see magazine's two week forecast of events in edmonton**

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MAR 20 - MAR 22 **Mocking Shadows**

NEWS • SURVIVAL GUIDE • BY ANGELA BRUNSCHOT | 823 words

# Survival Of The Lefties



Illustration By Genevieve Simms

## SHOULD YOU KEEP TO YOUR OWN KIND? POINT FINGERS? OR DENY REALITY COMPLETELY? HOW TO WITHSTAND THE NEXT FOUR YEARS OF TORY RULE

The provincial election finished almost two weeks ago. By now the shock should have worn off. Those who had the sense to predict another whopping Tory majority have also had enough time to realize what that result means for the next four years, and to wipe the self-satisfied, masochistic grins off their faces.

The roughly 50 per cent of Albertans who either didn't vote Tory have to find some way of getting through the province's eleventh straight Conservative government. That's 1,460 days of Ed Stelmach's artificial smile, eight legislative sessions, and who knows how many bills pushed through without a proper question period or public debate. Some are opting for a complete rejection of Alberta. There's actually a facebook group called "WTF? Another Tory Majority? Let's Move!"

So, instead of skipping town, *SEE Magazine* offers five serious and silly ways of dealing with the 2008 election results.

### (1) Create Your Own Bubble

Just because the Tories represent 87 per cent of Alberta, that doesn't mean you have to acknowledge that you live in a Conservative province.

Terminate all cross-political friendships. Cease and desist political arguments with the extended family.

"For my sanity, I'm in a bubble," says Michael Kalmanovitch, activist and owner of Earth's General Store. "I insulated myself from the average Albertan." Kalmanovitch says most of the people he knows and interacts with on a daily basis share the same values and ideals, and so it's easier to keep to his own tribe.

### (2) Throw The First Stone

That, of course, does not mean progressives can't fight within their own circles. With both the Liberals and the NDP losing seats and the Green Party failing to take their longed-for breakthrough, there's enough blame to go around for everyone. No doubt most of it will be hashed out behind closed doors, but Lindsay Telfer, a member of Conservation Voters of Alberta, isn't shy.

"To be quite honest," she says, "to anyone that was watching the elections unfold, the opposition ran absolutely horrible campaigns. In my eyes, both the Liberals and the NDPs failed to capitalize on the issues where Stelmach was the most vulnerable.... The debate was a prime example. The two issues where they both should have been cornering Stelmach against the wall were pace of development and climate change. The opposition's answers to both of those issues were pathetic."

### (3) Do Some Navel-Gazing

In the opposition parties, the next four years should see a great deal of soul-searching. Kyle Olsen, president of the Alberta Young Liberals, describes this process as "revaluating our core values without losing who we are." Members of the Liberal Party should take a hard look at their policies, he says, and get rid of the ones, such as electricity re-regulation, that are appealing ideologically to the wonks but confusing to the public.

"When you go to the people," he says, "it's not just that you have to talk about what you are going to do; you have to talk about how you are going to do it. It's a narrative.... Everything we do has to be a part of our core values. If it doesn't connect in to that core narrative, do we really need it? If it's contradictory in the public's mind, maybe we shouldn't have it."

### (4) Sit Tight Until Your Deluded Optimism Returns

"Right now, I feel so broken-spirited," says Green Party member Conor Trageser. "It will wear off in about a month or so, and then I'll be back to my delusional self where I think Alberta's on the brink of change."

He's looking forward to the federal election, which is expected to take place anytime between now and 2010. Engaging in the electoral process will soothe his shocked nerves, Trageser says, but that kind of ac-

tivity isn't possible until his current depression passes. "For the time being," he says, "I'm going to hang out with some like-minded people and be bitter."

### (5) Keep On Pushin'

Ron Harry, the executive director of Albertans for Change, isn't crying in his beer. He promises he and his labour coalition group will continue to push the Tories on social issues.

"The reality is this government is going to have to move left of centre in order to deal with these issues effectively," he says. "These issues were raised by average Albertans—mainly healthcare, housing, schools, and infrastructure. We will work with the government to hold them accountable for these and other issues and Albertans can do the same."

Greenpeace activist Mike Hudema certainly isn't letting the dismal election results keep him from his work opposing the oilsands. Change won't necessarily happen at the polls, he says; instead, he's hopeful that protest and grassroots pressure can convince the Tories of their folly in the oilsands. He sees the "No New Approvals" campaign gaining some traction, and regards the fact that First Nations groups are working with Greenpeace on this issue as a good sign.

"It's David and Goliath," he says. "Who doesn't want to be David? This should be fun!"

## NEWS BRIEFS BY ANGELA BRUNSCHOT

### ALBERTA • FOIP DOCUMENTS REVEAL... NOT MUCH

Bill Moore-Kilgannon wants an investigation into the use of federal funding for childcare in Alberta.

The executive director of Public Interest Alberta (PIA) has sent a letter to federal auditor general Sheila Fraser regarding \$26 million of federal funding specifically earmarked for Alberta childcare that he says has instead found its way into the province's general revenue.

Moore-Kilgannon placed a Freedom of Information request regarding the funds long before the provincial election was called, but the FOIP office could not fulfill the request within the stipulated 30-day waiting period.

Instead, he did not receive the documents until last week—and even then, much of the text was blanked out, including the content of e-mails regarding media calls and "key messaging" on the topic.

"This is not the secrets of the Afghan war," Moore-Kilgannon says. "This is childcare funding.... There should be no excuse for us to get all these blank pages."

However, he says enough information survived in the pages to prove that the money did go into general funds instead of the childcare budget. On page 17 of the FOIP document, for instance, there is an e-mail to Cathy DuCharme, a communications officer with Alberta's Children's Services, stating that the money "is coming to Alberta—general revenue fund not ACS directly."

While Moore-Kilgannon is upset that he couldn't share this information during the election campaign, he says PIA will continue to push the issue.

### EDMONTON • PROTEST FIVE YEARS OF ANTIWAR PROTESTS

The war in Iraq celebrates its fifth anniversary this month, and federal debate about whether Canada will extend our commitment in Afghanistan continues.

Doug Meggison, a leading member of Edmonton Coalition Against War and Racism, hopes that the Bloc Québécois and the NDP will be able to extend parliamentary debate beyond March 13—the date when the Tory bill to extend the mission until 2011 will be voted on—so that more voices can be heard on the issue. The Liberals have made several amendments to the bill, and are expected to vote in favour of it.

Two days later, on March 15, ECAWAR will recreate their first anti-Iraq war protest, back on March 20, 2003, when ECAWAR led 18,000 people from Churchill Square to the legislature. After more than five years of protesting U.S. and Canadian aggression, ECAWAR still has their core group of organizers, but Meggison says a sense of fatigue has set in after so many years of work with no results. Still, he hopes Saturday's protest will attract at least 200 people.

## “THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS FOLLOWING ALBERTA'S LEAD WHEN IT COMES TO REGULATING INDUSTRIAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.”

—Ed Stelmach, responding to the Harper government's carbon capture plan, in a March 10 government release

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



## WITNESS

MARCH 9, 2008 | 5:18:46 PM | RIVERDALE COMMUNITY HALL | PHOTO BY JOHN ULAN

Emma Jackson, 9, serves herself at the Vegetarians of Alberta Annual Cook-Off. This year's vegan entries must have carrots as a predominant ingredient and fit into one of the following categories: soup, salad, main course, or dessert.

### OUR COMMENT ON THIS WEEK'S NEWS

#### CANADA • CLIMATE CHANGE CONSERVATIVE HOT AIR

Even though the federal government's new climate change regulations are an industry-friendly solution, Ed Stelmach is using them as a chance to "stand up" to the feds, saying that the plan may be in violation of Alberta's constitutional right to jurisdiction over its natural resources.

The federal plan would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent below 2006 levels by 2020, whereas Stelmach promises to bring them 14 per cent below 2005 levels by 2050. The plan also calls for new oil sands plants to install carbon-capture storage systems by 2012—a sop to Alberta, as is the fact that federal emissions targets, like Alberta's, are intensity-based, and do not guarantee a reduction in greenhouse gases.

And get a load of the oil industry, who, following their royalty whine-fest, have rediscovered the word "share" and are asking taxpayers to pick up part of the tab for implementing carbon capture.

#### EDMONTON • CHURCHILL SQUARE DOME OF SILLINESS

Do we need a \$200,000 dome over Churchill Square? The winter festival committee of city council is considering building one in hopes that the square could be put to better use during the winter months—perhaps as a venue for concerts and plays. Oh! And maybe the homeless can use it to stay warm at night (when the rest of us aren't holding a party there).

While livening up Edmonton's grey and lonesome winter months is a worthy project, making sure people stay alive through the cold is more important, and this tent won't help the homeless problem. A 2006 count revealed 2,600 people living on Edmonton's streets, and they need and deserve more than a temporary/emergency solution. If Council wants to ensure that there's space for plays and concerts, surely investing in permanent buildings and organizations would be a better way to spend citizens' money.

#### CANADA • ARCTIC SOVEREIGNTY CANADIAN SATELLITE IN U.S. HANDS?

Stephen Harper has spent a good deal of his time in office, not to mention huge amounts of federal funds, on military equipment to assert Canada's domination of the Arctic.

There's a deep-water port, the new cold-weather military training facility, eight patrol ships, and a new icebreaker ship.

A focus on diplomacy is what's needed here and, as the NDP has pointed out, Harper would do better to offer support to northern communities than northern military bases.

He's also forgotten about the Radarsat-2 mapping satellite, produced in a P3 arrangement with MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates Ltd., which could soon be sold to an American company. The satellite can be used to map the Arctic, determine the thickness of ice, and track shipping tankers or other boats in the Northwest Passage. We already own this technology. Why is Harper letting it slip away?

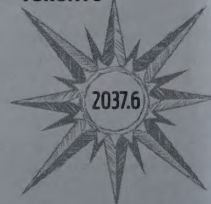
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COMMENTARY • PROVINCIAL POLITICS 1,895 words

# Play The Populist Card

OPINION EXILE  
**ALBERTA'S OPPOSITION  
PARTIES MUST LEARN TO  
EXPLOIT BOGEYMEN IF THEY  
WANT TO GAIN ANY TRACTION**

What if they threw an election and all the assholes voted?

Well, we have our answer, in the form of last week's Alberta provincial election.

Please don't misunderstand—I'm not saying that "Conservative" and "asshole" are synonymous, just that the overlap in this province is overwhelming. A more accurate synonym for "asshole" in the political sense in which I use it here is "populist," and populists can sometimes be left-wing. There would be no NDP had populists not built it.

Asshole voters believe that the threat does not come from within us, from our own choices and actions. The peril comes from enemies without, and for Albertans that usually means easterners, whether they be bankers or Liberals. As long as the leader of our tribe stands ready to defend us, little else matters. But he needs our help to do it, in the form of votes against the eastern bastards' local fifth column, also known as the provincial opposition parties.

Asshole voters believe in quick fixes, in protests against real (or more frequently imagined) conspiratorial elites, and in "people power." When they vote, they want to teach someone a lesson and cut them down to size—i.e., screw them hard. That's why assholes vote for populists, who promise to put the enemies of assholes in their place.

The federal NDP used to grab a big share of the asshole vote in the days before Preston Manning and the Reform Party. Voting NDP was a

way to draw attention to local and regional dissatisfaction and punish the larger parties for their arrogance and neglect. It should have come as no surprise when a lot of NDP support, particularly in the rural West, moved to Reform. Those voters were never ideological leftists; they were populists, and Reform expressed their rage against establishment elites in more familiar terms, and without the taint of unpopular social causes. Think "Reagan Democrats."

The NDP made inroads into the asshole vote in the 1980s when the Tories were led by Don Getty. It was no coincidence that some of the last places to turf Social Credit were among the first to go NDP, like Lac La Biche in the north and the Calgary constituencies of Forest Lawn and Mountain View. But when the populist Ralph Klein became premier, the Calgary and small-town NDP ridings swung sharply to the PCs. Let's not forget that Ed Stelmach unseated a New Democrat, Derek Fox, to take Vegreville back in 1993.

What does this mean for us now? It means that the election was far more a populist victory than a vote for conservative ideology. Had it been the latter, Paul Hinman's Wildrose Alliance wouldn't have been shut out of the Legislature. And had it been primarily a repudiation of non-conservatives, the Greens wouldn't have made significant strides in conservative bastions like Drayton Valley and Lacombe.

What it also means is that an NDP-Liberal merger, as some have inevitably proposed in the wake of last week's rout, is pointless. Let's leave aside for the moment the fact that a lot of New Democrats hate Liberals more than they do Conservatives, and the problem that the provincial

NDP is constitutionally a part of the federal party. Whatever populist credibility the Alberta NDP has left would be wrecked by a Liberal marriage, while non-populist centrist swing voters who might consider voting Liberal don't much care for the New Democrats. Besides, even if one simply adds the two parties' votes together, they barely account for 35 per cent of the vote, their lowest collective vote share since 1982.

Ed Stelmach and his Tories have a lock on the asshole vote, at least for now, and will only be dislodged by other populists. Populists voted in droves for Eddie last week, and a lot of those who couldn't bring themselves to vote for him just stayed home. Inertia, tribalism (particularly here in the north), and populism all militated against a switch to the opposition.

If the Liberals, the only remaining opposition party with official status in the Legislature, want to grow again, they must make sweeping changes. They need a new leader and a new name. Kevin Taft is a good guy with a lot of ideas, but he comes off cold and distant. And the Liberal brand name, which Laurence Decore revived, is suffering again from guilt by association with an unpopular federal party.

The new party must choose its battles carefully, being especially cautious not to challenge the popular Albertan view that there are eastern barbarians at the gates. They must accept this as a given and focus on hammering home the fact that we will be stronger—and better able to defend ourselves—by not pissing away our bounty of natural resources here at home the way the provincial Conservatives do.

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# Breaking Cadence



SLOBLOG CRAIG ELLIOTT

**HEY REVIEWERS: IF YOU CAN'T MAKE ANYTHING ANYWAY, DON'T MAKE AN ASS OF YOURSELF**

Just so you know, I do not know Cadence Weapon. I knew his dad a little bit from CJSR and I know a few things about Cadence Weapon—for instance, his given name is Rollie Pemberton and he likes videogames. I do own and enjoy a copy of *Breaking Kayfabe*, and I saw him shoveling snow in front of his house one time, and there was another time when we were both in the same bar at the same time, but I'm not his manager or his friend and I have no real investment in his success as a pop-cultural thingamajig, which he appears both headed for and as deserving of as any other.

It was my interest in him as a pop-cultural thingamajig that had me checking CW out on the internet, mostly looking up reviews of his new album and enjoying the "local boy makes good" angle, when I found (gasp) *The Bad Review*. Tim Perlich of Toronto's *NOW* Magazine rather hated the record—or so he intimated, briefly, in between his crabblings about how the artist had become too big for his britches and fantasizing that his review would spell the end to (at the least) Cadence Weapon's upward mobility. One star. Eee-

yowth.

I'm not going to stick up for an album I haven't heard yet, but I will say that I'm looking forward to hearing *Afterparty Babies*. I suspect that Cadence Weapon is probably going to be alright and his record is going to do very well, and I'm also reasonably sure that he can take care of himself, but I set out to feel sorry for someone or something today, and the only one left here is Tim Perlich, so I guess he'll have to do.

I recognize and sympathize with the contrarian/curmudgeon impulse. I've written lots of reviews—

with "interested parties" of various stripes. Dave Eggers once said, "Criticism is done, by and large, by impatient people who have axes to grind."

In case you've never noticed, most critics are mad. Ask them to justify their existence and they'll lay claim to a tony metaphysical address at the intersection of Important Street and Relevant Avenue, but if you press the issue, they're forced to admit that they're just the doorkeepers, and the pay is crap. As for the job description, well, they believe they're on hand to let the desirables in and

**IN CASE YOU'VE NEVER NOTICED, MOST CRITICS ARE MAD. IF YOU PRESS THE ISSUE, THEY'RE FORCED TO ADMIT THEY'RE JUST THE DOORKEEPERS AND THE PAY IS CRAP.**

criticisms, that is—of books, of movies and plays and rock concerts and OH GOD have I written CD reviews, and it takes but a moment's consideration of some of those books, movies, plays, rock concerts, and CDs for the bile to start welling up and the search for an exit strategy to begin. If it truly takes one to know one, then I know I've taken deliberate aim at a person or group's honest efforts enough times in my "career" to recognize when somebody's acting like an asshole for reasons that are too small, personal, and pathetic to reveal to the world. And for that, I worry for Tim Perlich.

By way of explaining the general uselessness of the criticism such as you will typically find published in daily and weekly newspapers and on the Internet, but also more informal in your workgroups and dealings

keep the riffraff out, but the fact is, such decisions are usually already made by the time the critics get in on the act, and while they are the ones with the most rules to follow, they're also the least likely to have anyone pay their opinions any mind whatsoever.

It's a very strong feeling of powerlessness, and to maintain a state of such constant, complete dissociation from it requires vast amounts of strength and resolve. And when a critic runs short of strength and resolve (there never seems to be as much on hand as they thought), there comes the dark, jealous impulse to be the one on whom all others focus their attention, and by then it's because they're trying to tear everything down around them. Someone should teach them how to create.

## HIGHLIGHT • PROTEST



PEACE! | For the fifth year running, ECWAR organizes Edmonton's anti-war protest. PHOTO SUPPLIED

### Protest • March 15: Alberta Legislature Steps • FREE

On the occasion of the fifth year of the war in Iraq, the Edmonton Coalition Against War and Racism has once again organized a peace march, this year starting at the legislature and then walking to Churchill Square. Come out and show the U.S. and Canadian governments that the peace movement is alive and well.

## ACTIVISM

**ACTIVIST AGENDA** An online newsletter resource for activism related events in Edmonton, with up-to-date information on sustainable practices, networking, and active organizations in the city. Supplied and maintained by Earth's General Store (10832-82 Ave. upstairs; 439-8725). Go to [www.egs.ca](http://www.egs.ca), info also available in-store.

**A PEACE PROCESS—NOT EXTENSION OF WAR** MARCH 19, 7-8:30 PM. RM 150, TELUS BUILDING. U of A. Special guest speaker, Gerald Olsen, Vice Chair of the Group of 78. Sponsored by the U of A Campus Chapter Council of Canadians, Edmonton Chapter Council of Canadians and Edmonton Coalition Against War and Racism. Info: 429-4500.

**BIKE WORKS** Fix your own bike. Edmonton Bicycle Committee. BikeWorks is entirely run by volunteers. Hours vary by season, call ahead: 439-2453. Info: [www.edmontonbikes.ca](http://www.edmontonbikes.ca).

**CJSR NEWS VOLUNTEERING** Gain experience in radio, contribute to a diverse community, and learn new skills, all while sharing your community stories. Info: [news@cjsr.com](http://news@cjsr.com).

**COUNCIL OF CANADIANS 3RD WED EVERY MONTH** Independent public interest organization promoting economic justice, democracy, and asserting Canadian sovereignty. Info: 429-4500.

**EDMONTON 9/11 TRUTH** An organization for Canadian citizens questioning the events of 9/11. For news, links, and local events go to [www.edmonton911truth.com](http://www.edmonton911truth.com).

**EDMONTON SMALL PRESS ASSOCIATION 3RD WED EVERY MONTH, 7 PM** An activist-arts and indie media collective, seeking socially-conscious artists, coordinators and production volunteers on an on-going basis. For info about upcoming events, [edmontonsmallpress.org](http://edmontonsmallpress.org).

**FRIENDS OF LUBICON ALBERTA TUES, 2 PM. APRIL OFFICE, HUB MILL, U OF A CAMPUS** Grassroots solidarity organization demanding fair and just settlement for the Lubicon Cree of Northern Alberta. Info: [www.lubicon.org](http://www.lubicon.org).

**GREENPEACE ALBERTA** Working and recruiting active people to help put an end to one of the world's most destructive projects: the Alberta Tar Sands. Info: [mhudmea@greenpeace.org](http://mhudmea@greenpeace.org).

**INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD 2ND THU EVERY MONTH, 7 PM. 7-42, HUMANITIES BUILDING, U OF A CAMPUS** Meetings open to the public. Info: [edmonton.iww.ca](http://edmonton.iww.ca).

**MADEIRA SANAM FOUNDATION 3RD & 4TH SAT EVERY MONTH, 9 AM-5 PM. FACULTE SAINT-JEAN, 8406-91 ST.** RM 3-18 Organization for the emancipation and autonomy of African women, providing programs on economy, community health, training in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. Instruction in French, English, and African languages. Admission free for members, membership \$10. Info: 490-7332.

**PEACE AMBASSADORS INITIATIVE MON, 5-7 PM. EDUCATION NORTH 4-104, U OF A CAMPUS** A youth group promoting anti-racist and diversity workshops. Info: 425-4644 or [www.naam.org](http://www.naam.org).

**PEACE MARCH & RALLY MAR 15, 12:30 PM. ALBERTA LEGISLATURE STEPS** March with the Edmonton Coalition against War and Racism (ECWAR) to Sir Winston Churchill Square. Info: [ecwar.org](http://ecwar.org).

**SIERRA CLUB OF CANADA** Poudre Chapter works with ecologically and socially conscious individuals to build strong grassroots movement in the Prairies. Info: [www.sierraclub.ca/poudre](http://www.sierraclub.ca/poudre).

**SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVIE NIGHT 4TH FRI EVERY MONTH, 7 PM. UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON, MAIN HALL, 10804-119 ST.** Mar 28 "War on Democracy" US Imperialism: Latin America, Cuba embargo. \$5 donation or PWYC at the door. Screenings followed by group discussion. Info: [njt.edmonton@gmail.com](http://njt.edmonton@gmail.com).

**THOUGHTFUL TUESDAY DOCUMENTARY SERIES TUE, 7 PM. STEEPS TEA LOUNGE, 1116-82 AVE.** Mar 18 "Garbage: The Revolution Starts at Home" Screenings free. Info: 988-8105 or [michael@steeps.com](http://michael@steeps.com).

**UNESCO COALITION FOR PEACE LAST FRI EVERY MONTH.**

**3 PM. BOYLE MCCAULEY HEALTH CENTRE, 2ND FL. BOARDROOM, 10628-96 ST.** Info: [greenpeace.ca](http://greenpeace.ca), 922-5566.

**WOMEN IN BLACK 1ST & 3RD SAT EVERY MONTH, 10-11 AM. STRATHCONA FARMERS' MARKET, 83 AVE. & 103 ST.** International women's peace and anti-racism group formed by Jewish and Arab women, opposing violence in all forms. All women, men, and children invited to attend the bi-weekly silent vigil. Info: 435-7051.

**YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE 2ND FRI EVERY MONTH, 5 PM. REMEDY CAFE, 863-109 ST.** For discussion topics and suggested readings go to [www.facebook.com/group.phpgid=3599215104](http://www.facebook.com/group.phpgid=3599215104).

## READINGS & LECTURES

**A LITERARY ALBERTA MAR 16, 1:30 PM. STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY, WRITERS CENTRE** Ted Ferguson, author of *Back Roads*, the special guest in The Writers Corner. Discussion will focus on the careers of Alberta authors. Info: 496-7000.

**DERRICK JENSEN: CIVILIZATION, THE CULTURE OF VIOLENCE, AND RESISTANCE** MAR 24, 7 PM. TRANSALT ARTS BARN, WESTBURY THEATRE, 10330-84 AVE. Author, teacher, activist and farmer, Derrick Jensen explains how our industrial civilization and the widespread violence it requires, cannot last. Tickets: \$5-\$30 at Earth's General Store, APRIG or at the door.

**FACTORY WEST MAR 18, 7 PM. CAFE SELECT, 8404-109 ST.** D.M. Bryan will launch her debut title, *Genil Mother* along with author Mark McCawley.

**FLIGHT OF FANCY: TANTALIZING TUES FROM AROUND THE WORLD** MAR 14, 7:30 PM. NORQUEST COLLEGE THEATRE, 10295-108 ST. Featuring storytellers Wendy Edge, Laura O'Connor, Jennie Frost, David Haas and Kathy Jessup. Tickets: \$16 at the door, or TIX.

**HEART BEAT WED, 8 PM (UNTIL MAY 28), SIGN-UP 7:30 PM. THE KASBAR LOUNGE, YANNIS'S TAVERNA, 10444 WHYTE AVE.** A new series of open-stage poetry and improv music w/ The Raving Poets band. Info: [www.ravingpoets.com](http://www.ravingpoets.com).

**LUNCH BY THE BOOKS** STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY, #7 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQUARE MAR 20 "Pysanka: The Ukrainian Easter Egg in Canada". Noon-hour discussions offered by the U of A's Faculty of Arts and the Edmonton Public Library. Free, everyone welcome. Info: [www.ucta.ca/valberta.ca/arts/lunchbythebooks.cfm](http://www.ucta.ca/valberta.ca/arts/lunchbythebooks.cfm).

**POETRY OPEN STAGE THU, 8 PM. NAKED CYBER CAFE & ESPRESSO BAR, 10354 JASPER AVE.** 425-9730. Weekly open stage poetry readings and performances. All welcome.

**POETS' HAVEN READING SERIES MON, 7 PM. UPPER CRUST CAFE, 10909-86 AVE.** MAR 17 Philip Jagger, Angela Dekort, Alison Clarke, Alison Owen Nicholls, Ruth Anderson, Donovan, and Sherrilyn Jahrig. Weekly readings, presented by the Stroll of Poets Society. Info: 422-8174 or [www.strollpoets.com](http://www.strollpoets.com).

**POETS INK THU, 7-9 PM. ST. THOMAS CAFE, ST. ALBERT.** Weekly writing evenings. Info: [www.poetsink.com](http://www.poetsink.com).

**STORY SLAM 3RD WED EVERY MONTH, 8 PM. BLUE CHAIR CAFE, 9624-76 AVE.** Sign-up 7 pm. First ten writers only, allotted five minutes each. Info: [thebunkersproject@hotmail.com](http://thebunkersproject@hotmail.com).

**WAHI! PIGS, POLICE AND PENIS GOURDS** MAR 20, 7 PM. STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY. Andrew Hamilton and Matt Singer present their documentary about their illegal journey to West Papua New Guinea. Info: 496-7032.

**WELCOME TO THE REEL WORLD SERIES WED, 5 PM. RM 325, CIVIL ENGINEERING BUILDING (CEB), U OF A CAMPUS** Global Issues film and speaker series. Mar 12, "Refugees of the Blue Planet"; Mar 19, "Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars"; Mar 26, "Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers". Info: [www.uew.ca](http://www.uew.ca).

**WRITERS CORNER** MAR 30, 1:30 PM. STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY. With writer, activist, poet and community worker, Greg Scofield. Info: 496-7000.

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IMBIBING • IRISH KISSES • BY MELISSA PRIESTLEY / 736 words

# Taking Back St. Paddy's

RECLAIMING THE QUINTESSENTIAL IRISH HOLIDAY THROUGH BOOZE—NO FAKE BROGUES ALLOWED

Though it may have originated as a legitimate religious festival, St. Patrick's Day has since become yet another excuse for fratboys and their ilk to binge drink. If you've ever been in a pub on Paddy's Day, you'll know that projectile vomit, parking lot brawls, and giant fuzzy green hats are a mainstay. Inevitably, there will be some shitty local Celtic band butchering "Danny Boy" in the corner, while drunken folk parade around in "Kiss Me I'm Irish" t-shirts and Elton John-style shamrock sunglasses, clutching a pint of green Kokanee and affecting a fake brogue.

I propose a revolution: let's take back St. Patrick's Day and make it a legitimate celebration of Irish culture. Since alcohol is the driving force behind this day, the revolution should start there. On March 17, swap your happy green beer for some decent Irish drinks (and for God's sake, lose the sunglasses).

## Raise A Pint

Unless you've been locked in a leprechaun's pot of gold for the last century, you'll know that Guinness is the overwhelmingly dominant Irish beer. While Guinness is enjoyable—and I certainly recommend that you have a pint of the thick, dark brew—there are other Irish ales out there that are often overlooked. Caffrey's, Kilkenny, Smithwick's, and Harp serve larger lovers just as well.

Unfortunately, Ireland does not have a strong tradition of micro-breweries, due in large part to Guinness' early dominance of the trade as well as competition with foreign beers (especially English ones—you confounded limeys!), so you probably won't find anything local. However, even the mass-produced brews are quaffable, and certainly better than the flat domestic green-tinted swill.

## The Hard Stuff

If you're up for an alternative to beer, or simply can't stomach the boatload of calories in Guinness (chocolate cake, anyone?), try some Irish whiskey. Ireland's whiskey industry's had a rocky history, so it currently does not enjoy the same prominence as its neighbour across the sea, single malt Scotch. However, the quality of Irish whiskey has risen dramatically over the years, and you can find some real bargains—often at a fraction of the price of Scotch.

I like to support the little guys, so I highly recommend trying some whiskey made by Cooley. As Ireland's only fully independent, 100 per cent Irish-owned distillery, Cooley is as Irish as potato bread. A series of events in the past caused the Irish whiskey industry to teeter on the brink of extinction, and the distilleries only survived by merging. Consequently, until 1989 when Cooley opened, all distilleries were owned by the Irish Distillers company, a subsidiary of the French drinks

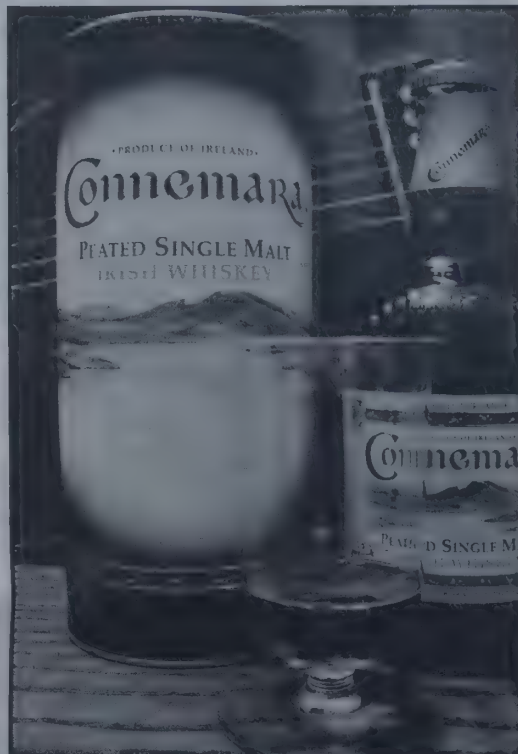
conglomerate Pernod Ricard. Cooley has since launched a number of high-quality malt and blended whiskeys, and while some are loath to admit it, the advent of Cooley is the best thing that could have happened: it revived competition in a stagnant industry, and new labels are regularly launched by both companies.

## A Taste Of Ireland

Cooley has several brands, including Tyrconnell, Connemara, Kilbeggan, and Greenore. I snagged a bottle of the Connemara Peated Single Malt, which was created in the style of single malt Scotch: the barley is dried over peat fires prior to distillation, imparting qualities of smoke, bacon fat, and moccasin leather to the whiskey. It is a very full-bodied, complex, and rich whiskey—if you served this to a Scotch lover they would have a hard time telling the difference.

I also tried three other whiskeys of the mass-produced variety: Bushmills (\$27), Jameson (\$27), and Tullamore Dew (\$25). These whiskeys are entry-level blends; keep in mind that each of these brands has several other high-end whiskeys with declared ages (i.e., 18 years old). If you are looking for a more premium bevvy, I suggest one of those.

However, the blends are still pretty good, and are great values to boot. Each one is stylistically quite different from the others. Bushmills had a cereal character and a fairly light palate, so it went down much too easily—this one will sneak up on you. Jameson is perfect for those with a sweet tooth with its warm orange



Who Needs Guinness? | Get a little creative with your empty-calories this Monday. PHOTO SUPPLIED

tones, rich palate, and oak aromas. Finally, the Tullamore Dew had some nice malty, burnt-sugar qualities and a citrus zing on the finish. At this price, you could easily expectorate a mouthful at the person who pinches

you for not wearing green.

It's bound to be a bender, but let's make this St. Paddy's brighter by supporting original Irish drinks. Hell, even a shot of Bailey's will do.

OPEN STAGE • POETIC LICENSE • BY MICHAEL GRAVEL / 570 words

# Confessions Of An Open-Mic Host

SOME NO-HOLDS-BARD MEMORIES FROM THE EMCEE OF EDMONTON'S LONGEST-RUNNING POETRY NIGHT

Hosting a poetry reading isn't easy. Throw in a few dozen restless, bery beatsniks and the situation can get downright bizarre—even hostile. For the past six years, I've been the host of The Raving Poets. It's E-Town's longest-running weekly poetry series, and one of the few in Canada that regularly features a live band. As host, my job is to hold the night and create a safe space in which poets can do their thing. I don't always succeed.

In my 300-plus readings, I've heard a broad spectrum of spoken-word material. I've seen and heard every shitty, clichéd thing you'd expect at a reading, and a few that defy description—including, but not limited to: painful rhyming couplets delivered with zero enthusiasm. Fifteen-minute, top-of-voice political tirades that lose the audience after minute one. Horrifically pornographic, misogynistic rants delivered with chilling detachment. Blatant Kerouac ripoffs that the poet hopes the audience doesn't notice, or doesn't know their Kerouac well enough to spot. (As if it is a poetry reading, after all.) One poet flagellating another's bare back while reading. A not-so-titillating

striptease. Poets too stoned to finish their pieces. Once, while reading his poem, a guy pulled a cheeseburger out of his back pocket and ate it.

But scattered amidst the tired vocabulary choices and assorted craziness, there are always truly beautiful and moving moments—often all on the same night. Such is the grab bag of the open mic. For every poet who mentions "their soul," there's one who tears the roof off with a killer delivery. For every sex-drenched, best-left-to-a-diary confession, there's a piece that moves the audience to tears. For every young, beret-wearing epitome of invented experience, there's a fortyish mother of two holding her own. I don't like ev-

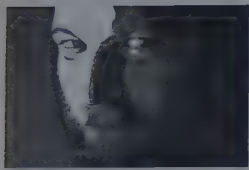
erything I hear. On some nights *everyone* sucks, but it's my job to keep the thing afloat. On rare nights—on the best nights—poetry readings can be downright holy. If the Raving Poets band is kicking it out, if I'm in my groove and keeping the energy up, and if the poets are stoked, a reading feels like a long backseat romp: loving, and a bit nasty.

Artists in general can be difficult, but poets are impossible. They're mercurial and they drive me nuts. I've been called an asshole by egomaniac bohemians. Poets have burst into tears because they didn't show up in time to get on the sign-up list. Sometimes a poet stretches the five-minute time limit to 15, much to the

chagrin of the dozing audience. But I always endeavour to maintain my cool. At the end of the night, I know what to do. I thank the poets—even the girl who delivered the rhyming couplets. I thank the guy behind the bar. I thank the band. I thank the universe for creating poetry. Do I get any thanks? Anybody ever buy me a drink or offer me a toke? Of course. I get my nods. When the night is done I go home with a smile. I'll do it again next week.

The Raving Poets hold open mic every Wednesday night until May 28 at the Kasbar Lounge (downstairs, 10444-82 Ave.) Sign-up at 7:30 pm, show at 8 pm.

# NDP De-Partied



HIDDEN NINJA, FISH GRIWKOWSKY

**THOUGH THE PARTY MAY HAVE DIED UNDERNEATH THE TORY LANDSLIDE, THE NOTLEY LEGACY SURVIVES**

For once, the ever-misused moniker "NDP Party" was accurate. It actually was a "party" of the New Democratic Party downtown at the Coast Plaza—saying "party" twice

was okay. Finally, a linguistic victory for proofreaders and Poindexters everywhere! "Uh, wait, no it isn't." I pointed out. "Didn't they just lose their 'party' status?" Ouch.

Oddly enough, that got laughs, and the mood at the post-election "victory" gala varied depending on who you talked to—but it was mostly upbeat, especially when the TV cameras rolled. Young hopefuls who just got their first taste of placing incredible energy into the forge of Alberta conservatism, only to watch it melt away in loss after loss, seemed either shellshocked or, preferably, drunk. But at least the races were impressively close all over the urban map. The more experienced campaigners, like seat-winner Rachel Notley's

brother Stephen, simply shrugged and said things like, "Eh, you live in Alberta, you get used to heartbreak. At least we kicked ass!"

And in Old Strathcona, indeed they did. Thanks to the legacy of their father Grant Notley—the former party leader who died a martyr, as Stephen puts it, "the year Ghostbusters came out"—Rachel Notley's

childhood memories of doing the same, Lady Notley had been working the suburbs since last winter, going door-to-door and shaking hands in Raj Pannu's tiny kingdom. As the votes visibly streamed in around us like something out of Reed Richards' science lab, talk of the unattainable "Raj numbers" began circulating. Amid victory hoots, it was pure mag-

versus Edmonton story. Our "local farmboy" was indeed defended from the snooty oil elite down south. Except they voted him in too.

And so it was that Brian Mason and Rachel Notley became the only two ND seatholders in the provincial legislature. As Notley made her first speech to her insular election machine with personal thank-yous,

**AS NOTLEY MADE HER FIRST SPEECH TO HER INSULAR ELECTION MACHINE HER EXCITABLE YOUNG SON INTERRUPTED, YELLING**  
**"I THINK WE SHOULD LIFT HER OVER OUR HEADS LIKE THE STANLEY CUP!"**  
**IT WAS ONE OF THE CUTEST THINGS I'VE EVER HEARD.**

family is used to pulling socialist wins out of a province obsessed with deshacking business of any responsibility whatsoever.

I was essentially smuggled into her personal campaign headquarters, where we watched the lo-fi, handwritten voter returns appear on the wall. Candidates' numbers were thrown up for every little slice of the riding phoned in—Rachel's results were filled in last every time, to increase dramatic effect. No, seriously.

Her husband and I both named her the winner long before CBC, but quietly, with superstition. With

ic when a poll's results would appear mathematically close to this high watermark—and with voter turnout as record-shitty as it was, some polls may have actually hit those marks when considered on a per capita basis. Same goes for the fact the NDP has dropped from roughly 109,000 to 81,000 votes since 1993. I'm not making excuses for anybody, but a 41 per cent voter turnout makes for smaller numbers across the board.

Stelmach nonetheless swept—thanks in part to possible backlash against negative ads paid for by unions, and to the campaign narrative that somehow became a Calgary

her excitable young son interrupted, yelling, "I think we should lift her over our heads like the Stanley Cup!" It was one of the cutest things I've ever heard.

The other day I ran into an organizer from a losing campaign, and he suggested the Tories might allow the NDP de facto party status, anyway. Meaning they can actually, for example, ask questions in session. The four-seat thing is a stupid rule—if you get in, you should be able to represent your seat. But might this happen out of kindness? "No, just to muck with the Liberals," he smiled.

Well, it's something, anyway.

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50 BUCK • WEEKEND WAFFLING • BY JUSTIN LANGILLE | 493 words

## A Steady Diet Of Rock

**THIS WEEK'S SOBUCKER**  
**LOUNGES FROM PUB TO PUBLIC**  
**LIBRARY IN SEARCH OF TUNES**

**\$14.75: Jug of Grasshopper at Garneau Pub**

I'm riding the LRT home from work on Friday night, and I'm thirsting for a beer to fuel me up for a weekend of chores, writing, and music listening. I usually stop by the Garneau Pub (85 Ave & 109 St.) during the early evening. Run by two classy Greek guys (and some real professional waitresses who dig Iron Maiden) this no-frills pub is a great place to sip some Alberta's finest wheat ale and forget the follies of the week. I walk away hiccupping continuously. The Tragically Hip stuck in my head.

**\$7: Two Bags of Carrots from Peas on Earth**

On Saturday mornings it's a ritual to guilt myself into getting out of bed and scribbling out an album review or starting on a new song. However, before I get down to work, I throw an ill-gotten copy of the new Constantines album onto my iPod and head down to the farmer's market to

pick up some choice groceries. While there isn't much in the way of great produce this time of year, I can always count on Peas on Earth for carrots. Operating a full-scale organic farm in St. Albert since 2000, this family business run by Ruby and Eric Chen has been supplying Edmonton with some of its best locally grown organic produce for years. I'm confident tonight's rice noodle stirfry will be 100 per cent better.

**\$22: Various Gear from Avenue Guitars**

Later that afternoon, I walk over to Avenue Guitars and find the place totally packed. Pros, joes, and hacks alike are crowded into the store's makeshift aisles, sifting through new instruments like a gang of magpies on a bag of hot garbage. This blistering fervor is evidence that spring is officially upon us. Livening up my own amateur acoustic mangling at home is my mission, so I wander to the back counter to pick out some quality picks and a capo (a clamping tool for changing the pitch of a guitar).

The beauty of hobby investments like this is that for a small price, it will provide me with innumerable hours of self-produced entertainment. Hell yeah.

**\$3: Coffee and Newspaper at Stanley A. Milner Library**

On Sunday afternoons I usually take a break from my computer to spend some time at the prestigious downtown branch of the Edmonton Public Library. With my shades on and a Sunday edition of the *Journal* in hand, I take the #6 bus downtown from the university, stopping at the Second Cup adjacent to the library entrance on my way in. After grabbing a medium cup of the darkest brew, I wander past the security guards and the metal detectors in search of the latest issue of the U.K. music magazine *The Wire*. I spend the afternoon availing myself of the seemingly endless resources offered by the most important public service in Edmonton—oddly enough, the cheapest thing I did all weekend.

Wanna try it? Send your ideas for 50Buck to stories@see.greatwest.ca



# 15 minutes

TRAVIS BADGER | FASHION DESIGNER, "JOURNEY TO LIGHT" (HUMAN YOUTH SOCIETY FUNDRAISER) | PHOTO BY MERYL SMITH LAWTON  
Q&As WITH EDMONTONIANS BY MATTHEW HALLIDAY

**When did you first start using drugs and alcohol?**

At about 13—that's when I started doing everything, drinking and... well, I was already drinking when I was 12, but at 13 I got into the

drug scene. Did that for four, five years, non-stop all the time, and was failing at school and everything.

**Were you doing anything creative in those years?**

I did a lot of painting and drawing and some fashion, but not as much as I had before, I guess. For obvious reasons.

**How did you clean up?**

A bunch of my friends just sat me down and told me to get off the shit, that I had talent and I was wasting it. I didn't listen to them at first, but eventually I sat down and took

a look at things. My parents got tired of me doing drugs and walking around the streets, and they sort of kidnaped me.

**How'd they pull that off?**

They pulled it off pretty good. My mother got my older brothers to move back in with her and they walked me to school and picked me up every day. I wasn't allowed to go anywhere else. They locked me up for good. And eventually I just got off the drugs. And that's when I started getting back into fashion again.

**What are your influences, style-wise?**

I like to watch music videos—that's where I get a lot of ideas and inspiration—and from music. That's kind of my thing. And things just pop into my head and then I make it.

**What do you want to do in the future?**

I'd like to go back to school, go back to fashion school... and I'd like to start a company of my own. Or at least have a retail store, make living from my clothes.

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ISSUE 2 MAR 2008

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# Building A Habitat For iHumanity

**JOURNEY TO LIGHT CHARITY FASHION GALA IS ONLY THE LATEST TRIP FOR ARTIST AND ACTIVIST SANDRA BROMLEY**

**JOURNEY TO LIGHT: THE ART OF iHUMAN**

Sat. Mar 15 (7-11pm). Art Gallery of Alberta, Enterprise Square. Tickets: \$125 each, \$1,000 for a book of 10, available at 422-6223. Info: [ihumanfundraiser@gmail.com](mailto:ihumanfundraiser@gmail.com)

It's a snowy day in January, but the first thing I notice in Sandra Bromley's art-filled home is a warm, earthy scent. It's coming from a pair of soft moosehide gloves hanging on a hook way on the other side of the room.

She brings me the gloves, intricately decorated with beads of azure, deep ruby, rosy pink, turquoise, dark green, and lime, so I can enjoy their bold flowers and redolent scent. "In the summer," Bromley says with a smile, "I just throw in mint from my garden when I make my green tea."

She takes a sip. "I see my work with social activism as a balance with myself as an artist. I don't see one more important than the other. They are both my passions."

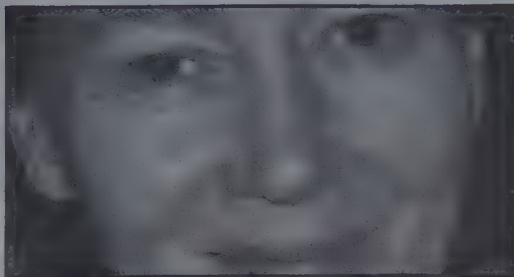
That's putting it mildly. In 2000, she and her colleague, artist and writer Wallis Kendal, shared the City of Edmonton's Salute to Excellence

Arts Award for her widely exhibited antiwar installation *The Art of Peacemaking/The Gun Sculpture*. That same year, she was part of the Canadian Consortium for Human Securities in Sierra Leone and Cambodia. Her four installations in those countries depicted girls and women who had been kidnapped as children and forced to be child soldiers, house slaves, or sex slaves.

"She traveled to this war-ravaged country with the express purpose of establishing relationships with the victims of atrocities, recording their stories and photographing their faces," says fellow sculptor Catherine Burgess. "She used this material to create a moving body of work that communicated the suffering and courage of these women to the eyes and hearts of Western viewers."

Bromley now organizes an annual fundraiser for the women in Sierra Leone, Children Affected by War (CAW), the first organization in Africa to work with child soldiers.

"These women were so courageous and extraordinary and they were trying so hard to take care of their children," says Bromley. "The first year we sent \$2,500, and this year we will send \$7,500.... \$200 in Sierra



**iHuman Resource** | Sandra Bromley has aided at-risk youth in Cambodia, Sierra Leone, and Edmonton. PHOTO BY LISA TARA EDEN  
Leone is like \$10,000 here. You can completely change a woman's life for \$200."

She's no less ardent an advocate for local high-risk youth, who, like youth in postwar countries, face difficulty rebuilding trust and re-establishing themselves in mainstream society. "The boom in Alberta is causing more social problems than ever," Bromley says. "Homelessness is more prevalent, which leaves youth vulnerable to high drug exposure, less access to support systems, whether they be social or health issues."

When Wallis Kendal met Bromley at her exhibition *Passages* at City Hall, he was already aware of Brom-

ley's work with high-risk youth, and helped direct their shared passion for art and activism into the Millennium Project, which taught teachers to work with at-risk youth.

Not long after, Bromley, Kendal and five or six of the young people they had been working with hatched a plan for an anti-violence project of their own: the youth would do the research, and Bromley and Kendal would provide supplies and mentoring (not to mention use of the coffee shop next to their studio). Soon the entourage had grown to 12. The iHuman Youth Society was born.

"It was phenomenal—the most powerful, exciting artwork," says Bromley.

Now iHuman supports 18-24 high-risk youth a day as they work towards overcoming homelessness, drug addiction, undiagnosed medical health issues, and unstable family environments.

"Many high-risk youth are past cause and consequence," Bromley says. "They've had everything taken away. Not many people want to live a high-risk lifestyle. You have to give them a lifeline back."

iHuman also engages youth with projects they find personally meaningful. For instance, one young person's dream of designing and making clothes planted the seed for this weekend's *Journey to Light* fashion gala, which has grown into a multidisciplinary event complete with visual arts, fashion, dance, and music. The proceeds will be funneled back into iHuman.

Once *Journey to Light* is wrapped up, the tireless Bromley plans to make a journey of a different kind and take a summer trip to India. She explains that both of her passions, social and artistic, are drawn to materials there. "I haven't dreamt this much since *The Gun Sculpture*," she says. "I think I have to follow the dream."

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EXERCISE • PENNY-PINCHING • BY SARAH DOUZIECH / 756 words

## Tightening The Belt

**RESIST THE FITNESS INDUSTRY! IT'S EASY TO GET FIT FOR FREE, OR AT LEAST ON THE CHEAP**

It's hardly news that the inevitable result of not managing financial and time constraints is an overall decline in health. At the same time, the people wielding the megaphone of the "fitness revolution" haven't stopped ordering us off the couch and into classes, training groups, boot camps, and fitness challenges. Myriad choices await—iyengar or Bikram yoga, strip cardio or kickboxing, the latest fusion class or circuit training... The implication is unmistakable: the more dollars you spend, the better your booty.

But whatever happened to lacing up the old sneakers and hitting the pavement? The cost of fitness is free. People resist, though, because the real cost is time and energy. You actually have to commit to going for a run, instead of letting Club Fit auto-deduct from your bank account. With the proverbial bare-more-skin seasons coming up, I'm resolving to keep it simple. Get off the couch to play ball outside, take the stairs, walk the dog for a half hour.

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But who am I kidding? Knowing that I don't need a gym membership or fancy gear doesn't always help me get out for a run in my holey sweats. Whether you're in a \$12/ hour step class or on a free bike ride in the river valley, you still have to put in the sweat, muscle, and sometimes tears. Accept the obvious: it's hard. But a good place to start is by choosing activities that involve some good old-fashioned fun.

### So Get Started Already

Many community leagues offer free family swim days or evenings at pools, and free indoor and outdoor ice skating. (Check out [efcl.org](http://efcl.org) for more info.) Our city boasts one of the most extensive river valley trail systems in Canada—also free of charge! Get a ball, a Frisbee, or some winter mittens to make a snowman, and access these gorgeous resources. Play Wii at a friend's house or take your spare change to the arcade for some Dance Dance Revolution.

Throw caution to the wind and pull out the old Skip-It, Pogo-Ball, jump rope, or hula-hoop and go hard for 30 minutes. Don a sweatband, spend 25 cents on a retro workout video or borrow one from the library and sweat it out, Napoleon Dynamite-style, the resulting laughter will be more than worth your while.

If you're gung-ho, host an outdoor group games night to play Capture the Flag, Camouflage, Ghost in the Graveyard, or Ultimate Frisbee. I've always thought glow-in-the-dark body paint and midnight tag would go well together. Pack a picnic and hike, ski, bike, rollerblade (or roller skate—it's making a comeback) to embark on your very own self-guided tour of your favourite city landmarks. The list goes on—the key is to get creative and get going.

For tips about better nutrition, access any of the oodles of free online resources—many sites provide services from meal plans to daily training regimens you can do at home, and send out daily workout or motivational tips. (To track your specific caloric input and output, check out [www.fitday.com](http://www.fitday.com).) Many glossy fitness magazines offer free at-home exercises on their websites, and there's a plethora of books at the library offering advice for every activity under the sun.

Whatever you do, there are free fitness choices out there. Step away from the pressures of the booty industry and try something a little more liberating. And save the \$160 you'd spend on Lululemon pants and pick up a pair of sweats at Army & Navy for \$9.99. You'll feel better, and so will your wallet.

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## myLook

Tom Pringle | Neophyte Antiquarian  
BY CHRIS LEWIS

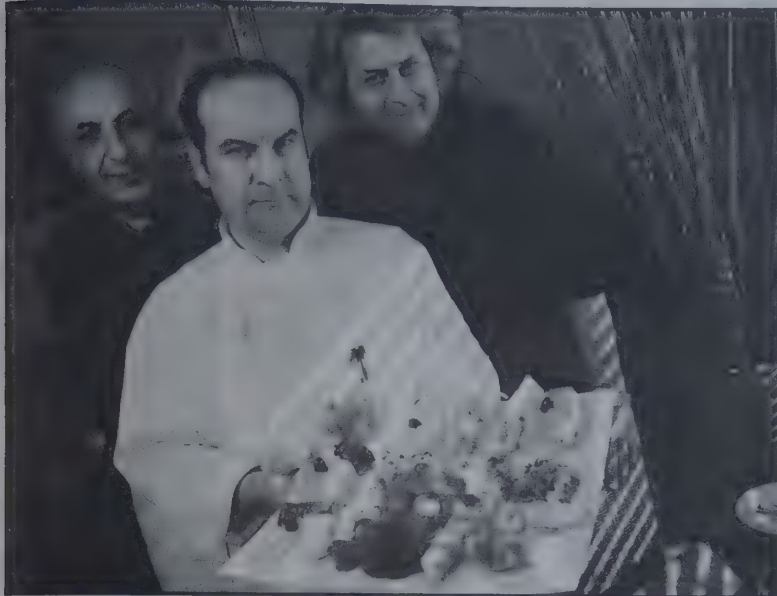
**Hair:** The Boardroom

**Wearing:** My glasses are Gentrô—I got them at The Optical Shop. The vest is from Value Village, the shirt is from a vintage store in New York called What Goes Around. The belt is a family heirloom passed on from my dad. I got my jeans (Levis) from Urban Outfitters and the boots are John Varvatos.

**Into:** Popcorn. Sure, there's the consequence of those tiny husks getting in your gums, but it's worth the indulgence. Also, the antique 1905 typewriter that my girlfriend got me for Christmas. It broke a week later when I was using it as a film prop. I took it in to get it fixed, but it's been a couple of months and I'm still waiting. It's pretty old, though, I guess.

DINING • MEDITERRANEAN • BY SCOTT LINGLEY (1748 words)

# Gimme Gimme MOR



**We Love Purple** | The staff of MOR, including head chef Umit Ozturk, and owners Matt Tanatmis (back right) and Yves Demet show off their mixed appetizer plate. PHOTO BY MARC BENCE

## THERE'S A DELICIOUS NEW TASTE OF TURKEY IN EDMONTON'S WEST END— THE COUNTRY, THAT IS

MOR MEDITERRANEAN TURKISH CUISINE  
15620-95 Ave., 758-4545

Thanks in part to various globetrotting friends who have touted its virtues to me—not least for its succulent indigenous cuisine—I've really been wanting to go to Turkey. Situated at the intersection of Mediterranean, Arab, and Eastern Europe with thousands of years of culture under its belt, its confounding blend of physical splendour, age-old tradition, and modern impulses probably has to be witnessed firsthand. The silent flatscreen TV on the far side of MOR Mediterranean Restaurant was doing a good job of persuading me that I should walk Istanbul's ancient streets, float along the Bosphorus, tour the Blue Mosque, and perhaps retire to an alley nook for a thimble of Turkish coffee and a nargile.

The restaurant is a much lovelier spot than you'd expect pulling into the parking lot of the deceptively picturesque-sounding Sandy Lane strip mall. "Mor" is Turkish for purple, which the interior of the eponymous restaurant translates into an eye-soothing expanse of lavender walls complemented by wicker and hardwood. The tables are set with violet napkins, a bundle of blueberry-stained reeds in glass stand as a centrepiece, and the ceramic handle of the truncated butter knife on my bread plate bears the painted image of an aubergine.

MOR's menu, while democratic on the matter of appetizers, comes down on the side of the carnivores in the entrée department. For vegetarians both pesco- and ova- there are Mediterranean staples to start like hummus, pilaki (beans), roasted eggplant dip, feta wrapped in phyllo and tarama, all served with steaming, tender triangles of homemade pide bread. Also, there's lentil soup and Mediterranean salad. But when you get to the main courses, there's meat, meat, and more meat. (MOR's menu also bears an adorable misspelling—the word sauce is given as "souse," which somehow sounds more delicious, if you ask me. I didn't get a chance to inquire after their pastry chef, Phyllo Doug.)

Our gracious server, who also owns the place, informs us lamb ribs (\$22) are on special that night, and that's all my co-diner needs to hear. I knew she'd spare me a rib or two if I cut her in on my Iskender kebab (\$25) as a pre-meal to our meat feast, we decide to try the pastirma and melon (\$11). A basket of pide is delivered soon after and we both regret aloud not ordering something to dip it in.

Pastirma is a Middle Eastern cold-cut like prosciutto, except made out of beef—ultra-thin air-dried slices you can almost see through, to be exact, with a thin rind of spice paste and a side of juicy cantaloupe (The menu said honeydew, but the chunks of pale orange melon were just as good with the salty, delicate sheets of beef.) The friendly owner, who was also our server, tells us that the pastirma came from Montreal, pastirma capital of Canada, if not North America. We wish we had

more people to share it with, as it's a generous portion (but not so generous that we don't eat it all).

Soon our entrées are set before us. Co-diner finds herself confronted with quite a heap of lamb ribs, as well as rice, fried potatoes, and a broiled tomato. My large, ovoid platter of Iskender kebab, featuring sliced seasoned beef spooned over fresh pide bread drizzled with tomato sauce, is bracketed by pools of yogurt and sections of broiled tomato.

A few months ago I repeatedly went to the same Turkish place north of downtown trying to get their Iskender kebab, but they were always sold out. The object of my thwarted curiosity is now before me and I can definitely see the appeal. The strips of beef are tender and sousey beyond my fondest hopes, and I don't think I can overstate my enthusiasm for the pide. All together with the yogurt, it makes a satisfying stew, though I wouldn't have minded a side vegetable for variety. The lamb rib I manage to score is also grilled with great care, though the cut is fattier than I prefer.

When we dither about dessert—we're pretty stuffed—the owner offers us a complimentary taste of his baklava (honey-drenched, pistachio-stuffed rapture) to go with our Turkish coffee and tea and, as when he dropped off each blandishment of service, gently bids us to "Enjoy, please." Next time I plan to round up more people to take with me so we can enjoy (please) a wider swath of the menu's Turkish delicacies. Or I'm going to Turkey. Whichever is easier.

MacEwan

## Bachelor of Child and Youth Care

Prepare for a rewarding career helping at-risk youth and their families manage emotional and behavioural problems.

With diploma and degree options, full-time or part-time studies, you can choose your own path - and reach your full potential.

### INFORMATION SESSION

Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm  
Room 233, South Campus  
(7319 - 29 Avenue)

Call 497-4646 or  
visit [www.MacEwan.ca/cyc](http://www.MacEwan.ca/cyc)

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## CHECK OUT THESE UPCOMING SHOWS!

**DOUBLE BILL** **PRISM**  
Mar 15  
TIX \$24.95  
TICKETMASTER 451-9000  
CENTURY CASINO 643-4000

Mar 20  
TIX \$34.95  
TICKETMASTER 451-9000  
CENTURY CASINO 643-4000

MAR 21  
TIX \$19.95  
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TICKETS AVAILABLE AT CENTURY CASINO  
SEATING IS LIMITED. ARRIVE EARLY. NO MINORS. DOORS AT 8PM FOR ALL SHOWS  
13103 FORT RD 643-4000 [www.cnty.com](http://www.cnty.com)

## EVENTS

**7-PLEX MAR 14-16, PLEASANTVIEW COMMUNITY HALL, 10860 ST. AVE.** A weekend-long dance exchange hosted by Swing-Out Edmonton and Sugar Swing Dance Club. Features live music, organized dance activities and contests. Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door, weekend passes available at [www.pleasantview.org](http://www.pleasantview.org). Info: Birkley, 604-7572.

**ALBERTA STUDENT FILM FEST MAR 28-29, METRO THEATRE, 2100 10TH AVE. E.** Screenings and awards presentation for student made films. Presented by the U of A Society for Creative Filmmaking. Info: [www.myspace.com/albertastudentfilmfest](http://www.myspace.com/albertastudentfilmfest).

**A TASTE OF ARGENTINA MAR 27, 7-9:30 PM, SUTTON PLACE BALLROOM, 10235-101 ST.** Workshops and Edmonton Jazz Orchestra. Tickets: \$55 at TIX or the Edmonton Jazz Festival Society 990-0022.

**BUSKER'S BALL MAR 21, 6:30 PM, NAKED ON JASPER, 10354 JASPER AVE.** Benefit for the Parkland Institute, featuring local musicians. Admission by donation. Info: 433-3559.

**THE CARROT ARTS MARKET EVERY SAT, 10 AM-2 PM, THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE, 953-118 AVE.** Artists and artisans from the community and beyond share unique gifts, crafts, and artwork. Info: [www.theartco.ca](http://www.theartco.ca).

**EASTER AT RUTHERFORD HOUSE MAR 23, 12-4 PM, RUTHERFORD HOUSE PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE** Family games and activities including egg painting, an Easter hunt and crafts. Info: 432-3955.

**EXPLORING RESPECT, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY FILM FEST MAR 13, 6 PM, STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY, 87 CHURCHILL SQUARE.** The Friends of Edmononton Library present films to celebrate International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Free Admission. Info: 496-7000.

**THE GOOD MEDICINE FILM FESTIVAL MONTHLY SCREENINGS, STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY, 87 CHURCHILL SQUARE MAR 15, 2 pm "Superhero Me"; APR 12, 2 pm "Away From Her"; MAY 10, 2 pm "Seduced Dr. Lewis."** Various health related films presented throughout the semester. Info: [www.ahhm.filmalberta.ca](http://www.ahhm.filmalberta.ca).

**JOURNEY TO THE LIGHT: GALA FUNDRAISER MAR 15, 7-11 PM, ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA, 100-10230 JASPER AVE.** A spring gala fundraiser by Human Youth Society. The event showcases the artistic journeys of youth-at-risk with fashion, dance, music, visual art, and poetry. Tickets: \$125. \$1000 for a book of 10 at 422-6223.

**MIND THE GAP: A THINK TANK ON THE CULTURE OF YOUTH MAR 15, 2-4 PM, ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA, ENTERPRISE SQUARE, 100-10230 JASPER AVE.** Journal columnist Paula Simons moderates a discussion addressing everything from gut-builies to sexism. Info: 422-6223.

**OUTDOOR WAY OF THE CROSS MAR 12, 10 AM-NOON, BOYLE STREET COMMUNITY HALL, 9515-104 AVE.** The walk invites people to think about the relevance of the Gospel while taking a prayer walk through Edmonton. Info: Linda, 466-6327.

## MEETINGS

**ACOA EVERY MON, INCLUDING HOLIDAYS, 7:30 PM, BSM, BRADSHAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 111 BERNARD DR., ST. ALBERT, CORNER OF BISHOP ST. & S.W. WINSTON CHURCHILL AVE.** USE NORTH ENTRANCE. Twelve-step support program for adult children of alcoholic and dysfunctional families.

**ALBERTA ENTREPRENEURS ASSOCIATION 3RD TUE EVERY MONTH, 5:30-9 PM, THE FACILITY CLUB, 11435 SASK DR.** Pre-register at [www.aea.ab.ca](http://www.aea.ab.ca).

**CINÉ-CLUB OF EDMONTON 1ST MON EVERY MONTH, 7 PM, AUDITORIUM DU CAMPUS SAINT-JEAN, U OF A.** Donations accepted at the door.

**EDMONTON NATURE CLUB MONTHLY MEETINGS, ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM, 10495-104 AVE.** Informative monthly meetings with guest speakers. Info: Mark, 430-7134 or [me@telusplanet.net](mailto:me@telusplanet.net).

**FORWARD THINKERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB TUE 7 PM, STRATHCONA COMMUNITY BUILDING, 2001 SHERWOOD DRIVE, SHERWOOD PARK.** Build self-confidence and communication skills. Info: 923-3635.

**FRENCH CONVERSATION THU, 11 AM, FRANÇOISE, 1002, 8627 RUE MARIE-ANNE GABOURY.** Info: Godfrey, 469-0399.

**FRENCH MEETUP** Informal conversation group, all levels of French speakers welcome. Info: [french.meetup.com/236](http://french.meetup.com/236) or 720-5169.

**GREAT EXPEDITIONS, HOSTEL TRAVEL 2ND MON EVERY MONTH, 7:30 PM, HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL, 10640-81 AVE.** APR 14 African Safari, Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi. Everyone welcome. For presentation schedule or info: Sylvia, 454-6216 or 455-6741.

**HIP MAMAS MEET-UP** Young mothers and their babies meet several times a week. Free to join, plenty of friends to be made. Info: [hipmamas.meetup.com/151/](http://hipmamas.meetup.com/151/).

**ILLUSIONS SOCIAL CLUB THU EVERY MONTH, 8 PM, WOODY'S, 2ND FL., 11723 JASPER AVE.** Cross-dressers, transsexuals, friends, and supporters meet. Info: 387-3343 or groups.yahoo.com/group/edmonton.illusions.

**IMAGES ALBERTA CAMERA CLUB THU 4TH THU EVERY MONTH, 8 PM, SEP-MAY VARIOUS LOCATIONS** Informative presentations, speakers, workshops, outings,

monthly and year-end competitions. Check website for locations. Up-coming 08-09 Season, will be at Pleasantview Community Hall. Photographic enthusiasts of all levels welcome. Info: [www.imagesab.com](http://www.imagesab.com) or Sheila, 469-9776; Muffy, 452-6224.

**INNOVATORS' NETWORKING CLUB TUE, 11:30 AM-1 PM, CAFE SELECT SOUTH, 109 ST. & 84 AVE.** Business networking group, mixer, and club membership drive. Info: Dwayne, 463-6140 or [dwayneh@baleen.ca](mailto:dwayneh@baleen.ca).

**ORATORS TOASTMASTERS CLUB WED 7-8:45 PM, LONDOONDERRY PUBLIC LIBRARY, LONDOONDERRY HALL, 137 AVE. & 66 ST.** Learn to speak clearly and with confidence in a supportive group. Info: [www.orators.com](http://www.orators.com).

**NORWOOD TOASTMASTERS CLUB THU, 8-10 PM, 10425 KINGSWAY AVE.** Improve public speaking and communication skills in a fun and educational environment. Info: 465-9394 or [www.norwoodtoastmasters.org](http://www.norwoodtoastmasters.org).

**POWER SPEAKERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB WED 7-9 PM, GRANT MACLEWAN COLLEGE CENTRE FOR THE ARTS, RM 437** Learn to speak with confidence in a supportive environment. Info: 732-0693 or [www.powerpeakers.ca](http://www.powerpeakers.ca).

**SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES** Weekly drop-in meetings, providing resources and information on self-esteem, mental health, and employment. Men welcome to attend. Info: 496-5930.

**TOURETTE SYNDROME SUPPORT 1ST WED EVERY MONTH (OCT-JUNE), 7 PM, ACADEMY OF KING EDWARD, 8525-101 ST., NORTH DOOR.** Meeting for TS adults and parents of TS kids. Info: 1-866-824-3764.

**UPWARD BOUND TOASTMASTERS CLUB WED, 7-8:30 PM, 601 NORQUEST COLLEGE, 1025-108 ST.** Improve listening, speaking, and overall communication skills. Info: Roger 454-3720, Theresa 468-0988, or [adam@aleus.net](mailto:adam@aleus.net).

**WEST-END TOASTMASTER CLUB TUE, 6:45-9 PM, JASPER PLACE LIBRARY, 9010-156 ST.** Friendly environment of personal progress and mutual support. Info: 495-5424.

**WOW-WIRED ON WORDS SUN, 11 AM-1:15 PM, 3 BANANAS CAFE, CHURCHILL SQUARE** An eclectic creative writing group welcoming both professional and amateur writers. Suggested donation \$10. Monthly meetings. Info: [bewell.2008@gmail.com](mailto:bewell.2008@gmail.com).

**YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE 2ND FRI EVERY MONTH, 5 PM, REMEDY CAFE, 8631-199 ST.** For discussion topics and suggested readings. Info: [www.facebook.com/group.phpgid-355925104](http://www.facebook.com/group.phpgid-355925104).

## HEALTH &amp; WELLNESS

**CANADIAN NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE 10205-101 ST., 479-1999** A range of services for members of the Native community, including a free community lunch Fridays at noon, employment and Public Health information, counseling referrals and one-on-one support, AADAC & Legal Aid referrals, low cost or free beds, housing and child referrals. Info: 479-1999.

**CLUB LULU LULULEMON, 10544-87 AVE.** Weekly activities to get you moving. Info: [www.lululemon.com](http://www.lululemon.com), 425-9363 or [whytecommunity@lululemon.com](mailto:whytecommunity@lululemon.com).

**COMMUNITY WEIGHT-LOSS CHALLENGE VARIOUS LOCATIONS** 6 week course advising diet and active lifestyle. Info: Carla, 966-0185.

**CONSTITUTIONAL EVERY 1ST & 3RD WED, 7 PM, 10437-37 AVE.** A unique healing process, transforming past burdens into positive affirmations. Info: 967-9162 or [constitutionals.com](mailto:constitutionals.com).

**EXPLORE STILLNESS WED, APR 9 & 23, 7-9 PM, UNITY CHURCH OF EDMONTON, 13210-106 AVE.** With Eckhart Tolle. Learn to release nagging thoughts with ability to perceive sacredness of oneself and the natural world. "Stillness Amidst the World" video/discussion/meditation workshop. Info: 913-6466 or [www.unityofedmonton.ca](http://www.unityofedmonton.ca).

**FREE YOGA CLASS EVERY SUN, 6-7 PM, LULULEMON ATHLETICA KINGSWAY** All levels welcome. new styles each week. mats provided. Info: 477-1200 or [kingswaygardencommunity@lululemon.com](mailto:kingswaygardencommunity@lululemon.com).

**GENTLE YOGA RADHA YOGA 9946-87 AVE.** Weekly classes in small group settings. Sunday Satsang (by donation). Call for schedule and fees. Info: 432-3363 or [www.radha.org](http://www.radha.org).

**LIVING POSITIVE TUE, 7-9 PM, SUITE 50, 9912-106 ST.** Confidential space where PO2 people can discuss and share common issues of concern. A peer-driven AIDS service organization, providing direct support to people living with HIV in Alberta. Info: 468-5768 or [edmlivingpositive@msn.com](mailto:edmlivingpositive@msn.com).

**LOTUS SOUL GYM YOGA STUDIO 10518-82 AVE.** Multidisciplinary yoga studio offering drop-in and registered classes in hatha, vinyasa flow, Pilates, yoga for runners, pre-natal, post-natal, mommy & me, and partner workshops. All levels welcome. Info: [www.lotussoulgym.com](http://www.lotussoulgym.com), 434-9642 or [info@lotussoulgym.com](mailto:info@lotussoulgym.com).

**MADELINE SANAM FOUNDATION 3RD & 4TH SAT EVERY MONTH, 9 AM-5 PM, FACILITE SAINT-JEAN, 8406-91 ST., RM 3-18.** An organization for the emancipation and autonomy of African women, providing programs on economy, community health, training on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. French, English and African languages. Admission free for members, membership \$10. Info: 490-7332.

**MENTATION AND BUDDHIST TEACHINGS GADEN SAMTEN LING TIBETAN BUDDHIST MEDITATION SOCIETY, 11403-101 ST.** Meditation and Buddhist teachings by

resident teacher, Tibetan Buddhist monk Kushok Lobzang Dhanchoe. Beginners Tue 7 pm, intermediate Wed 7 pm. Advanced practices Sun 11 am. Info: 479-0014 or [gadensamten.org](mailto:gadensamten.org).

**MS ACTIVE NOW \$150, 9405-50 ST.** Recreation and physical wellness programs. Info: 471-3034.

**NIA TECHNIQUE APRIL 4, 5:30-6:30 PM, KNOX METROPOLITAN CHURCH** A blend of dance, martial arts and yoga. Info: Gloria, 434-8137 or [gloria@nia.ca](mailto:gloria@nia.ca).

**RADHA YOGA VARIOUS LOCATIONS** Classes include gentle hatha, hidden language/effective hatha, dream yoga, kundalini/purpose of choice and meditation. Info: 432-3363.

**RAJA YOGA MEDITATION #208, 10372-105 ST.** In association with Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization. Info: [www.blwcu.org](http://www.blwcu.org) or 425-1050.

**RIVER VALLEY RUNNERS TUE & THU, 5:15-6:45 PM, RIVERDALE** 10371-100 AVE. Coached training for running on Edmonton's extensive river valley trails, includes warm up and cooldown. Info: [www.rivervalleyrunners.net](http://www.rivervalleyrunners.net) or 447-1909.

**THE SECRET OF BREATH WORKSHOP MARCH 29, 9 AM-7 PM, UNITY CHURCH OF EDMONTON, 13210-106 AVE.** Breathe to heal past and emotions. Info: [www.unityofedmonton.ca](http://www.unityofedmonton.ca) or [tyheon.913-6466](mailto:tyheon.913-6466). Register: [unity@unityofedmonton.ca](mailto:unity@unityofedmonton.ca).

**TOPS: TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY THU, 6:30-7:30 PM, ALLENDALE COMMUNITY LEAGUE, 630-1054 ST.** Weight loss support and information. First meeting is free. Info: [TOPS490@hotmail.com](mailto:TOPS490@hotmail.com).

**TRANQUILITY MEDITATION WED, 7 PM, 10502-10 AVE.** Tibetan tradition. Free, beginners welcome, instruction available. Info: Lama Ani Kunsang, 633-6157 or [karnatschilling.org](mailto:karnatschilling.org).

**VEGETARIANS OF ALBERTA** Monthly events, potluck dinners, and dine-out nights for vegetarians and vegans. Monthly newsletter includes articles on health, environment, and compassion. Info: [events@vofa.ca](mailto:events@vofa.ca) or [www.vofa.ca](http://www.vofa.ca).

**ADULTS.** Info: [www.manitowiswin.com](http://www.manitowiswin.com) or 975-6910.

**KITA NO TAIKO JAPANESE DRUMMING WORKSHOPS** Schedules, info, and registration: [www.kitanotaikei.ca](http://www.kitanotaikei.ca) or 431-0300.

**MARS HILL CENTRE 68318-104 ST., 425-0202** Classes and workshops on the recovery process. Registration on a sliding scale, based on participant's income. Info: [www.marshillcentre.ca](http://www.marshillcentre.ca).

**MEDIA MAC WORKSHOPS EDMONTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, #600, 9990 JASPER AVE.** Info: [www.mediamag.ca](http://www.mediamag.ca) or 695-5575.

**METRO CONTINUING EDUCATION 8205-90 AVE.** Courses start in Jan/Feb, subjects include dance, fitness, sports, massage, spirituality, and more. Class and schedules available in the free Metro Class Calendar, available throughout the city. Info: 428-1111 or [www.metrocontinuingeducation.ca](http://www.metrocontinuingeducation.ca).

**MINERVA MOSAICS ART CLASSES CITY ARTS CENTRE, 10943-84 AVE.** A range of mosaic art classes for beginners and intermediates. Info: [www.minervamosaics.com](http://www.minervamosaics.com) or 439-1957.

**MOMMY & ME BELLY DANCING CLASSES** Belly dance classes and parties for adults and children. Info: 428-5571 or [belldance@telus.net](mailto:belldance@telus.net).

**NORTHERN RIVER KARATE SCHOOL TUE, THU & SAT, BELGRAVIA COMMUNITY HALL, 1540-73 AVE.** Weekly classes in Karate, Kobudo, Yoga, Qi Gong, and Sitting Meditation. Info: [www.threeshattles.com](http://www.threeshattles.com).

**PRESCHOOL INDOOR SOCCER SAT (NOV-JUN), 9:30 AM-10:30 AM, SACRED HEART SCHOOL GYM, 96 ST. & 118 AVE.** Ages 2-4, girls and boys. Basic soccer skills, taught by FIFA certified coach. Info: Tony, 420-0760.

**TAIKO-FIT APRIL 3, 6-7 PM, KNOX METROPOLITAN CHURCH** Fitness program using drumming and dance. Info: Gloria, 434-8137 or [gloria@nia.ca](mailto:gloria@nia.ca).

**AGAPE EDUCATION FACULTY, U OF A** Campus Focus group on sex and gender differences in education and culture. Pre-service and practicing teachers, community members welcome. Info: [andre.graef@ualberta.ca](mailto:andre.graef@ualberta.ca) or 492-0772.

**EMPIRE BALL MAR 15, 8 PM, ALBERTA AVEAN COMMUNITY LEAGUE, 9210-118 AVE.** A Roman themed dance, presented by the Pride Centre of Edmonton. Tickets: \$10 Members, \$15 Non-members, \$12 Students at 488-3234.

**EPSS/LGBTQ LIASION COMMITTEE** The EPSS/LGBTQ Liaison Committee is composed of a variety of concerned lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, two-spirited, queer, allied community members, and police officers. Email questions or concerns to [epslgbt@yahoo.ca](mailto:epslgbt@yahoo.ca). All inquiries treated with confidentiality and respect. To report a hate or bias motivated crime, contact the EPS Hate & Bias Crime Unit, 447-3489.

**INSIDE/OUT U of A Campus** based organization for LGBTQ faculty, graduates, academic & staff. Straight allies welcome. Monthly meetings. Info: [kwell@ualberta.ca](mailto:kwell@ualberta.ca) or [mwhorham@ualberta.ca](mailto:mwhorham@ualberta.ca).

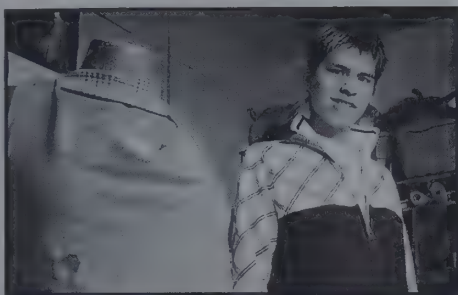
**PRIDE CENTRE 5560-111 AVE., 488-3234.** Hours: Tue-Fri 10-10 pm, Sat 12-6:30 pm. Drop-in, library, and community internet services are available. Online newsletter Thurs: Tue-Fri 10-10 pm, Sat 12-6:30 pm. Info: 488-3234 or [www.pridecentredmonton.org](http://www.pridecentredmonton.org).

**PRIDE EDMONTON** A volunteer operated, non-profit society for members and friends of the GLBT community, offering well organized and fun sporting events and other recreational activities within a positive social framework.

**LEARNING CENTRE LITERACY ASSOCIATION #202, 10116-105 AVE.** Recruiting volunteers to help adults develop literacy and math skills on an ongoing basis. Info: Mary, 429-0675.

**KARATE INSTRUCTION** Classes for kids over 10, teens, and adults. Info: [www.karateedmonton.ca](http://www.karateedmonton.ca) or 439-1957.

## HIGHLIGHT • PRICEY GALA



Dressing Up | Travis Badger posing with some of his designs. PHOTO BY MERV SMITH/LAWTON

## Journey To The Light: Gala Fundraiser • Mar 15 • Art Gallery of Alberta

iHuman Youth. It's pricey (\$125 a ticket!) but what better cause can you find? Well, we dare you to try... go to [human.org](http://human.org) and check out the work and the people—if you can find a more worthwhile cause, then, uh, put your money there.

adults. Info: [www.manitowiswin.com](http://www.manitowiswin.com) or 975-6910.

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Info: [www.teamedmonton.ca](http://www.teamedmonton.ca).

**WOMENSPACE** Non-profit lesbian organization for Edmonton and surrounding area. Organized monthly activities. Memberships available, including monthly newsletter. Confidentiality assured. Info: [www.gaycanada.com/womonspace](http://www.gaycanada.com/womonspace) or [womonspace@gmail.com](mailto:womonspace@gmail.com), or 482-1794.

**YOUTHSPACE PRIDE CENTRE OF EDMONTON, 9540-111 AVE.** An after-school drop-in program for gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans-identified, queer, questioning and allied (GLBTQ&A) youth under 25. Open Tue-Sat 3-7 pm. Info: [brendan@pridecentredmonton.org](mailto:brendan@pridecentredmonton.org) or 488-3234.

**THURSDAY**

**BI-SEXUAL WOMEN'S COFFEE GROUP 2ND THU EVERY MONTH, 7:30 PM.** A social group for bi-curious and bi-sexual women. Info: groups.yahoo.com/group/bwsedmonton.

**COCAINE ANONYMOUS MEETING 7 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.** Call hotline: 425-2715.

**FREE TO BE INTERMEDIATE VOLLEYBALL 8-10 PM, 101 ASHWILKWAY ACADEMY** Info: [volleyball@teamedmonton.ca](mailto:volleyball@teamedmonton.ca).

**GAYWIRK 6 PM, CSR 88.5 FM** Edmonton's only radio show concerning gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered lives. News, local and international features, and community events.

**LGBT SENIORS DROP IN 1:30-3:30 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.** Social meeting for seniors of all genders. Info: Jeff, 488-3234.

**ILLUSIONS SOCIAL CLUB THU EVERY MONTH, 8 PM, BOOTS, 10242-106 ST.** Cross-dressers, transsexuals, friends, and supporters meet. Info: 387-3343 or groups.yahoo.com/group/edmonton.illusions.

**FRIDAY**

**GAMES NIGHT FIRST AND LAST FRI EVERY MONTH, 7-9 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.** Coffee and games.

**YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT 6 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.**

**SATURDAY**

**NORTHERN CHAPS 1ST & 3RD SAT EVERY MONTH, 9 PM, BOOTS, 10242-106 ST.** Edmonton's original leather-tan community. Info: [main@northernchaps.com](mailto:main@northernchaps.com) or [www.northernchaps.com](http://www.northernchaps.com).

**NORTHERN TITANS GLBT BOWLING LEAGUE 7 PM, GATEWAY Lanes & Recreation Centre, #100, 344 GATEWAY BLVD.** \$15 per person. Info: [bowling@teamedmonton.ca](mailto:bowling@teamedmonton.ca).

**SINGLE LESBIANS OVER 40** Women's social group, monthly gatherings for conversation over tea and coffee. Info: [singlewomen40plus@hotmail.com](mailto:singlewomen40plus@hotmail.com).

**SUIT UP & SHOW UP NOW, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.** A Big Book Study. Info: 488-3234.

**YOUTH UNDERSTANDING YOUTH 7-9 PM, PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.** Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, straight, and questioning youth (up to 25) have to have fun and learn in a safe, supportive environment. Info: [yuyf@yahoo.ca](mailto:yuyf@yahoo.ca) or [www.primetimerswww.org/edmonton](http://www.primetimerswww.org/edmonton).

**SUNDAY**

**ARCTIC FRONT RUNNERS 10 AM** Runners of all levels of ability welcome. Runs are typically 6-8 km, usually 44-60 minutes. Coffee afterwards. Info: on venues and other runs during the week [running@teamedmonton.ca](http://running@teamedmonton.ca), or 436-7892.

**BALLROOM DANCING 7:30-8:30 PM** All gender combinations welcome. Salsa, rumba, waltz, jive. Info: 469-3281 or [ballroom@teamedmonton.ca](mailto:ballroom@teamedmonton.ca).

**EDMONTON PRIME TIMERS (EPT) 2ND SUN MOST MONTHS, 2:30 PM, UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON, 10804-119 ST.** Older gay men and admirers meet for a social period, short business meeting, followed by guest speaker, discussion panel, or potluck supper. Special interest groups are formed for other activities throughout the month. EPT is affiliated with Prime Times World Wide. Info: [edmontont@yahooc.ca](mailto:edmontont@yahooc.ca) or [www.primetimerswww.org/edmonton](http://www.primetimerswww.org/edmonton).

**HATHA YOGA 2-3:30 PM. LION'S BREATH YOGA.** Introductory level class, free. No previous experience required. Bring yoga mat or towel and water. Info: [yoga@teamedmonton.ca](mailto:yoga@teamedmonton.ca)

**LAMBDA CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH 7 PM.** GARNEAU UNITED CHURCH, 11148-84 AVE. Lambda provides a safe and healing space for Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and heterosexual Christians. All denominations and faiths welcome. Info: 881-8611 or [lbmbdashurch@shaw.ca](mailto:lbmbdashurch@shaw.ca)

**MEN TALKING WITH PRIDE 7 PM.** PRIDE CENTRE 9540-111 AVE. Men's social and discussion group, facilitated by Rob Wells. Info: [robwells70@hotmail.com](mailto:robwells70@hotmail.com) or 488-3234

**SOUL OUTING 3RD SUN EVERY MONTH, 7 PM.** ROBERTSON-WESLEY UNITED CHURCH, 10209 123 ST. LGBT-focused alternative worship. Info: 482-1587 or email [javenscroft@nrcw.org](mailto:javenscroft@nrcw.org)

**SOUTHMINSTER-STEINHILF UNITED CHURCH 10 AM.** 10740-19 AVE. Welcomes all sexual orientations. Info: 987-4914

**SPIRITUAL LIVING CENTRE** Info: [www.spiritualivingcentre.com](http://www.spiritualivingcentre.com) or 989-3752

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH 10 AM.** 11526-76 AVE. All orientations welcome for Sunday service. Info: 436-1555 or [www.affirmunited.ca](http://www.affirmunited.ca)

**TRANS EDUCATION & SUPPORT GROUP 1ST & 3RD SUN EVERY MONTH, 2 PM.** PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Provides support and education for all transsexual, transgendered, intersexed, two-spirited, and questioning individuals. Info: [www.albertatrans.org](http://www.albertatrans.org) or 488-3234

**WOMONSPACE BOARD MEETING 1ST SUN EVERY MONTH, 10:30 AM-12:30 PM.** PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE.

## MONDAY

**CURLING WITH PRIDE MON (UNTIL MAR 17), 7:15 PM.** GRANITE CURLING CLUB, 8620-107 ST. Info: [curling@teamedmonton.ca](mailto:curling@teamedmonton.ca)

**HIV SUPPORT GROUP 2ND MON EVERY MONTH, 7-9 PM.** PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Info: Richard, 488-3234 or [richard@pridecentreofedmonton.org](mailto:richard@pridecentreofedmonton.org)

## TUESDAY

**FREEDOM METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF EDMONTON 7:15 PM.** 10086 MACDONALD DR. A church for all people. Info: 429-2321

**LGBT SENIORS DROP IN 1:30-3:30 PM.** PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Social meeting for seniors of all genders. Info: Jeff, 488-3234

**MAKING WAVES SWIMMING CLUB NAUT POOL, 11762-106 ST.** Recreational and competitive swimming and coaching. Beginners encouraged to participate. Practices every Tue (8-9 pm) and Thu (7:30-8:30 pm), followed by social meeting. Info: [swimming@teamedmonton.ca](mailto:swimming@teamedmonton.ca)

**OUTREACH 5 PM.** HERITAGE ROOM, ATHABASCA HALL, U OF A CAMPUS U of A based group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight-but-friendly students, staff, and faculty. Open to the community outside the U of A. Info: [www.outreach.pielalmighty.com](http://www.outreach.pielalmighty.com) or [outreach@ualberta.ca](mailto:outreach@ualberta.ca)

**PLAG EDMONTON 1ST TUE EVERY MONTH, 7 PM.** PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Support meeting for parents, families, and friends of LGBT individuals. Info: 488-3234

**STEP AEROBICS 5 PM.** AEROBICS STUDIO, KINSMEN SPORTS CENTRE, 9100 WALTERDALE HILL. Info: [step@teamedmonton.ca](mailto:step@teamedmonton.ca)

**TRANS SUPPORT GROUP 2ND TUE EVERY MONTH, 7:30-9:30 PM.** GARNEAU UNITED CHURCH MEETING ROOM, 11148-84 AVE. Education and support group for trans-identified and questioning people. Info: 718-1412 or [ttqalliance@shaw.ca](mailto:ttqalliance@shaw.ca)

shaw.ca

**TTIQ ALLIANCE 2ND TUE EVERY MONTH, 7:30 PM.** PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Support meeting for transgender, transsexual, intersex, and questioning individuals. Providing education, advocacy and support for men, women, and youth

## WEDNESDAY

**EDMONTON RAINBOW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION 2ND WED EVERY MONTH** Casual networking with the GLBT business community. Locations listed on [www.edmontonrba.org](http://www.edmontonrba.org)

**FREE TO BE RECREATIONAL VOLLEYBALL 8-10 PM.** 101 AMISKINAWY ACADEMY \$50 per season. Info: [revolleyball@teamedmonton.ca](mailto:revolleyball@teamedmonton.ca)

**OPEN DOOR CLUB 5 PM.** GRANT MACFARLANE COLLEGE, CITY CENTRE CAMPUS, RM 6-217 Social group for GLBTQ students, faculty, and friends at GMCC

**TEAM EDMONTON BADMINTON 6 PM.** OLIVER SCHOOL GYM, 10227-118 ST. Women's drop-in recreational badminton, all levels welcome. \$30 for the season, \$5 drop-in. Info: 465-3620

**YOURS, MINE, OURS AND US (YMOU) 1ST AND 3RD WED EVERY MONTH** Support group for GLBT parents, partners, and friends. Info: 426-6311 or 415-5434

**YOUTH THEATRE PROJECT 7 PM.** PRIDE CENTRE, 9540-111 AVE. Using theatre to increase awareness and reduce homophobic bullying. Theatre experience required. Info: Emily, 488-3234 or [emily@pridecentreofedmonton.org](mailto:emily@pridecentreofedmonton.org)

## BATH HOUSES

**DOWN UNDER 12224 JASPER AVE.** 482-7960 Open 24/7.

Info: [www.gayedmonton.com](http://www.gayedmonton.com)

**STEAMWORKS 11745 JASPER AVE.** 451-5554 Open 24/7.

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# Think Tankian



MUSIC PREVIEW • **POLITIC ROCK** • BY SCOTT LINGLEY | 1,225 words

**SYSTEM OF A DOWN FRONTMAN FIGHTS THE BIG, BAD AMERICAN SYSTEM WITH WORDS AND MUSIC—AND A LITTLE GIBBERISH**

## SERJ TANKIAN

W/ Fair to Midland, Mar 16 (doors at 8pm), Shaw Conference Centre (19737 Jasper Ave). Tickets: \$29.50, available through Ticketmaster (451-8000/ticketmaster.ca).

"I hate to do this to you, but can you hold on just one second?" Serj Tankian says a minute or two into a telephone interview that finds him aboard his tour bus in Council Bluffs, Iowa. "I'll tell you what I'm doing after."

In the background you can hear the notorious clip of Republican presidential candidate John McCain responding to a question at a press conference by singing, "Bomb bomb bomb, bomb bomb Iran."

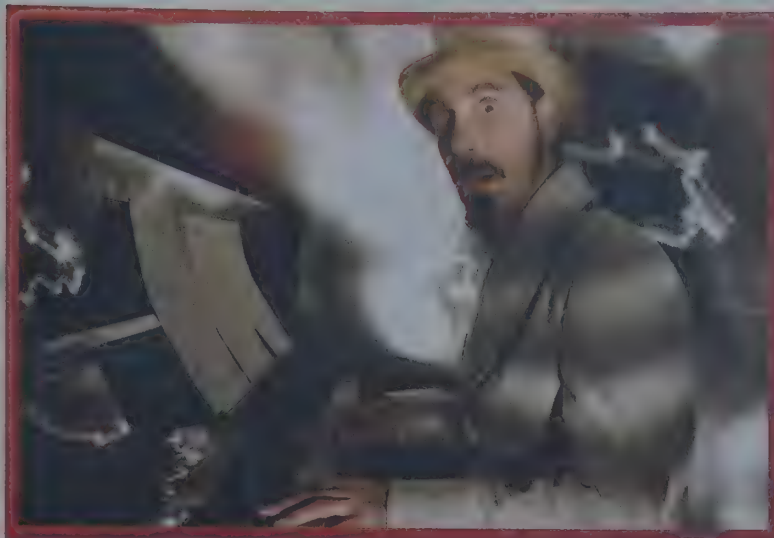
"Oh my God, that is so scary," Tankian laughs. "We just saw the clip on YouTube and I'm like, what the hell? It's not even on-key. Son of a bitch. That's one reason not to elect that guy. Fuckin' sing on-key."

This interlude reflects two of the seemingly disparate qualities—serious geopolitical concern and supreme goofiness—that abide in Tankian's music and persona, just as the hint of an accent from his Armenian upbringing emerges through the laid-back verbal mannerisms of a longtime southern Californian.

Even to fans, Tankian must cut an unlikely figure as a rock star. Best known to the world as the vocalist for the wildly successful System of a Down, the 40-year-old Lebanese-born multi-instrumentalist, songwriter, poet, and activist switches easily from impassioned minor-key crooning to throat-shredding shrieks, even as he reconciles strident lyrical cries for social awareness ("They're trying to build a prison for you and me to live in!") with total gibberish ("Banana banana banana banana banana banana terra cotta pie"), and the cadences of Middle Eastern music with the furious roar of hard rock.

## Citizen Serj

As Tankian points out, he was a songwriter long before SOAD formed a decade ago, and this has left him with hundreds of unreleased tunes. With SOAD presently on "extended hiatus," Tankian has seized the moment to release his first solo album,



*Elect the Dead*, which brings the man and his newly constituted band The Flying Cunts of Chaos (FCC) to the Shaw Conference Centre this Sunday.

"I've been doing collaborations with some of my songs," he says, "giving songs to different artists, doing remixes, film compositions, and videogames, so a solo record is something I've been wanting to do for a long time and a natural progression for me as an artist."

In some circles, though, Tankian is just as well known for his activism—as a co-founder with Tom Morello

opens the door to the others and you see that everything is connected, and that injustice itself will create other injustice."

## Dead Politicians Are Better

Naturally Tankian's concerns about the state of the world are reflected in the songs on *Elect the Dead*, though he refuses to force a particular reading of his lyrics on the listening public.

"The songs are open to interpretation," he says, "and we like it that way, so people can internalize them based on their own cumulative experience

and democratic," he says. "[The proposed reforms] include national instant runoff voting to encourage third-party delegates, a cap on corporate contributions, the abolishment of K Street lobbying firms, and the abolishment of the electoral college altogether, to basically make it a direct majority vote as it should be in a democracy. We're trying to get enough signatories to that page so we can take it to Congress if we have enough people that really believe in it."

One has to wonder how he fits refurbishing democracy into a

**"ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT WHEN I WAS YOUNG AND I SAW THE HYPOCRISY OF THE DENIAL OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE IN A SO-CALLED DEMOCRACY, IT KIND OF MADE ME MORE EMPATHETIC AND AWARE OF OTHER CAUSES.... EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED, AND INJUSTICE ITSELF WILL CREATE OTHER INJUSTICE."**

of Axis of Justice, a nonprofit group focused on human rights issues, as a proponent of Amnesty International's Music for Human Rights, and as a spokesperson for the movement to have Turkey's early 20th-century slaughter of its ethnic Armenian population internationally recognized as genocide.

"All I can tell you is that when I was young and I saw the hypocrisy of the denial of the Armenian genocide in a so-called democracy, it kind of made me more empathetic and aware of other causes, be they national liberation struggles or human rights causes or, more recently, ecological-oriented causes," Tankian says. "I think one

experience, 'Elect the dead' could mean many things. I've heard many interesting interpretations over time. One is that we should have someone that is dead now who would be more capable than people running now. I heard someone say the victims of the epitome of our civilization should elect our next leaders so we have a just structure."

Whatever it means, Tankian apparently isn't satisfied with idle musings, so he's launched electthedead.com, a website promoting five electoral reforms intended to improve America's democratic system. "[We want] to make our democracy less money-tainted and more equitable

schedule already packed with various songwriting/producing activities, running a record label (Serjical Strike), publishing poetry, and touring the world.

"This isn't much work, to be honest," he says. "It's just getting the word out to people so they can check it out and sign on if they believe in it. If we only get 1,000 people, I don't think any Congressmen will be interested, but if we get five million people I think someone's going to pay attention. The web serves a lot of purposes—why not have it be some new ideas for electoral reform?"

*Elect the Dead* also reflects Tankian's preoccupation with environ-

mental issues: songs like "Sky Is Over" (which also spawned a web site of environmental links) and "Honking Antelope" depict a natural world thrown into chaos by human ignorance and greed. Once again, Tankian won't settle for just singing about it.

"We just started working with this nonprofit organization called Reverb," he says, "and they work with touring entities in trying to reduce carbon emissions or do carbon-off-setting programs, and also make the tour itself more eco-friendly, so we're learning a lot of stuff. We have appointed [guitarist] Larry Lalonde as our ecological ambassador from The Flying Cunts of Chaos—to fill the world with more green cunts, I guess."

And what recommends the former Primus guitarist to such a sensitive position?

"His qualifications are, he is a very—let me ask him. Larry, what are your qualifications for becoming the ecological ambassador for the FCC?" Lalonde can be heard faintly in the background. "He has zero qualifications, but 110 per cent positive intentions."

## Out Of His System

Tankian sounds like he's enjoying the novelty of touring with a new band and playing his own tunes, even if it's meant scaling back on the size of the audiences to which SOAD may have accustomed him.

"This is a whole new project and when I started I expected to start from almost zero, and I'm actually really thankful that a lot of fans have come on board," he says. "I didn't expect to go from playing arenas with System then putting out a solo record and going right back to the arenas on the first tour. That's not how it works in our industry, bro."

He excuses himself from the phone again and a sound like a wet-vac stuck in a sink full of oysters comes down the line. Tankian apologizes—he's getting over a cold. I express relief that he's not playing more hair-raising YouTube clips.

"Yeah," Tankian laughs. "That did sound like John McCain spitting a loogie, didn't it?"

PREVIEW • THAT OLD-TIME ROCK 'N' ROLL • BY MATTHEW HALLIDAY | 724 words

# What, Me Miss Kiss?

**ACE FREHLEY SAYS HE'S DOING JUST FINE WITHOUT HIS "COLD GIN"—OR THE BAND THAT MADE HIM FAMOUS**

**ACE FREHLEY**  
Mar 15 (8pm), Edmonton Event Centre. Tickets: \$35, available through Ticketmaster (451-8000/ticketmaster.ca)

It's difficult to imagine two men more dissimilar than Kiss' Ace Frehley and Gene Simmons. From Kiss' inception in 1973 to Frehley's departure from the band in 1982 (after the embarrassing prog-wannabe concept album *Music From the Elder*), the two were the yin and yang of one of the biggest rock bands on Earth.

Today, Simmons is a big, rich professional asshole, infamous for his starring role on *Celebrity Apprentice* (where he rivals Donald Trump for sheer unpleasantness) and his shameless milking of Kiss' back catalogue in an endless series of reunion tours. He's over-wealthy, over-sexed, and overconfident—though that seems to work for him.

Frehley, on the other hand, is a charmingly amiable good sport, who apologizes for phoning me 15 minutes after our designated interview time. (He was caught in a snowstorm in Ontario.) It's not too likely that Gene Simmons would deign to call a weekly arts magazine in a mid-sized city to begin with, let alone apologize for not being on time.

And while Frehley could certainly use the cash to be had from another Kiss reunion more than Simmons, he backed out of yet another Kiss tour in 2002 (the band had already been on the road for four years) to concentrate on his considerably lower-profile solo career.

"Kiss became work," he says. "It was just a moneymaker and there was nothing fun about it. Which is



Free Wheeling | Ace is finally free of the rock 'n' roll stupor that was Kiss. PHOTO SUPPLIED

a quick warning sign: when it's not fun, it's like, 'Okay, next!'"

His solo plans at the time were quickly derailed by a lapse into the alcoholism that had plagued him since the '70s, but now, six years later, Frehley is finally sober (for 17 months now) and about to issue his first album since the '90s. Frehley's old bandmate and best friend in Kiss, Peter Criss, told a *Seattle Weekly* in-

terviewer last year that he hoped Frehley's new project would be successful, because success "really bothers certain people"—i.e., Simmons.

"A lot of people said I was dead," he says, "and every day, you know, doing what I'm doing, it's great, whether I'm playing a big venue or a theatre. It's great waking up and remembering what you did the night before.... For a long time, I would bump into

people who worked for me, or old friends, and they would go on and on with all these stories, and I would have no recollection of any of it. But the stories are refreshing!"

Frehley makes his home these days on an acreage in upstate New York, where he has his own recording studio—and even though he's being tight-lipped about his new record, declining to reveal the name or even

play any new material on the current tour, focusing exclusively on Kiss songs and earlier solo material to keep the new stuff "a surprise," he allows a few hints as to what the record will sound like.

"I'm trying to get back to basics more of an analog sound," he says. "Digital doesn't have the same quality, and when I went back to tape after recording digitally I noticed a huge difference.... A comparison is if anybody wants to film anything and they want it to look good, they shoot it on film and then transfer it to video. Most rock 'n' roll engineers and musicians who are serious about their sound are going to go that way."

He also says that he's been looking to his eponymous 1978 solo album (a fan favourite, widely acknowledged to be the best of the four solo albums released concurrently by the individual members of Kiss in '78) as a point of reference for the new album. "That album had a good mix of ballads, rockers, heavy stuff, lighter stuff... everyone seems to like it."

Though Frehley's said in the past that touring brings enormous temptation to fall back into alcohol, his band on this tour is comprised entirely of clean musicians, including longtime Frehley drummer Anton Fig (also David Letterman's house drummer) and Anthony Esposito of Lynch Mob. "It's not that hard to find clean musicians today," he says. "Certainly not compared to 25 years ago!"

And besides, he's never enjoyed the traveling.

"Travelling is a necessary evil. You've got to get from point A to point B. It's nicer to travel in private jets, but maybe that'll happen again soon. Who knows?"



Dapper Kravitz | Lenny should have no trouble finding a cab these days. PHOTO SUPPLIED

## HOT TICKETS • MUST-SEE SHOWS

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**Lenny Kravitz**  
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Behold, the wordsmithery of Lenny Kravitz:

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*I got high with Jagger / It was really cool — "I Don't Want To Be A Star", 2004*

*Don't go and put a bullet in your head / Just turn your life around instead — "Don't Go And Put A Bullet In Your Head", 1995*

**AFRO-ROCK FUSION**  
**Angelique Kidjo**  
Winspear Centre • Mar 17  
\$47-\$55 | At winspearcentre.com

From her home in the tiny African country of Benin to David Letterman's New York stage, from clubs to concert halls, Angelique Kidjo has been celebrated far and wide: her 2007 album, *Djin Djin*, featured guests performances from Peter Gabriel, Carlos Santana, and Joss Stone (but don't let that fool you: she's actually really good). The *New York Times* hails her "growls and swoops that link African tradition to American soul music," and the BBC lauds her "ability to blend up-tempo African music with rock."

**STEVE EARLE AFTERPARTY MUSIC**  
**The Waybacks**  
Velvet Underground • Mar 13  
\$19 | At ticketmaster.ca

San Francisco's The Waybacks didn't name their band on a whim—they make atavism a way of life. Nobody can pull off the sheer number of old-school genres these guys can on one album. Turkish folk, Scottish ballads, modern pop, bluegrass, country, Appalachian hillbilly music... The Waybacks do it all and then some. The band are one of the undervalued treasures of American roots music, so if you're any kind of folk/roots fan, do yourself a favour and don't miss this sure-to-be-intimate show at the VU.

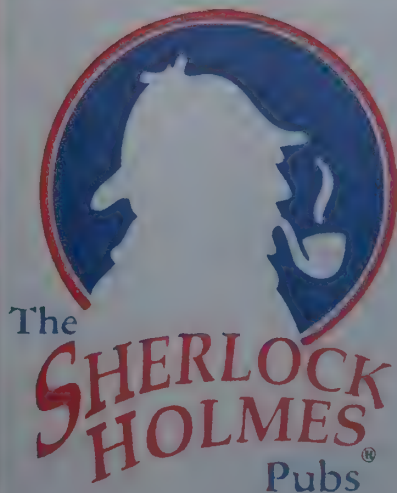


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CD RELEASE • LONESOME FOLK • BY MATT HUBERT | 492 words

## Loosening Up Is Hard To Do

**AFTER A WAVE OF ACCOLADES AND AWARDS, FOLKSINGER BEN SURES IS FINALLY COMFORTABLE WITH HIMSELF**

BEN SURES

w/ Angie Murray; Mar 14 (8pm), Queen Alexandra Community Hall (10425 University Ave). Tickets: \$18, available at TIX on the Square (420-1757/tixonthesquare.ca), Megatunes (10355 Whyte Ave), or III the door.

"I started out with way more ambition than talent," Ben Sures admits. "I think it's the opposite now."

Even with almost 20 years of recording albums and reeling out memorable, intimate performances under his belt, the Regina-born singer/songwriter remains pointedly humble about his long career, industry accolades, and faithful fanbase. Sure, he placed second in the AAA category at last year's International Songwriting Awards, won the John Lennon songwriting award for his tune "Any Precious Girl," and has been a fixture at folk festivals in Edmonton, Winnipeg, and beyond with his iconic brand of folk-pop. But as strong as his fanbase (consisting primarily of "baby boomers and nerdy girls," he jokes) may be, Sures has seen some down times.

"[Winning the contest] was a little confidence boost," he says. "For



Lonesome Ben | Sures offers his *Field Guide to Loneliness* this Friday at Queen Alex Hall. PHOTO SUPPLIED

maybe the first decade I was always chasing, contacting people to get my music heard; some of them took the time to contact me after [the award]. I had four years between albums and time to grow—to let go of that chase."

Adding to Sures' newfound ease is the warm reception that's greeted his

latest album, *Field Guide to Loneliness*. The album, co-produced by Mike Lent and mastered by Miles Wilkinson (who previously worked with the likes of Townes Van Zandt and Guy Clark) was recorded mostly here in Edmonton, and pitches and rolls gracefully between two-stepping folk tunes like "Who Killed The Last

Folksinger?" and brooding, standup bass-driven songs like "Bachelors" and "Not on the Town." Imagine Pete Seeger singing material from Tom Waits' *Nighthawks at the Diner*, clever, brash, and inviting all at the same time. And sure enough, Sures is in more demand than ever, but the guy still makes time to play house shows in his hometown.

"I played one house show maybe 10 or 11 years ago," Sures recalls, "and they happened to have a baby—she was maybe 14 months—and they let her sort of crawl around on the floor during the show. You could tell the audience was uncomfortable and eventually they put her to bed and everyone loosened up. I played the same house just recently and this girl, who's now 10 or 11, started dancing and flailing her arms, making people uncomfortable." He laughs. "So they put her to bed, and everyone loosened up."

Ben and his eight-piece backing band are hoping for the same friendly reception when *Field Guide to Loneliness* makes its Edmonton premiere Friday night. Rest assured, the crowd will be in for a great show. "I'm kind of at that point," Sures says, "where if I don't get to have that huge kind of career, it's alright—every time I play a show I'm going to enjoy it."

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IN MEMORIAM • GARY MCGOWAN • BY TOM MURRAY | 588 words

# So Long, McGowan



Oh, The Hair | How he will be missed. PHOTO BY FISH GRADWOSKY

## A SALUTE TO THE BEHIND-SCENES VISIONARY WHO QUIETLY BUILT EDMONTON'S MUSIC SCENE

Long an integral and much-loved part of Edmonton's music culture, Gary McGowan passed away last Saturday evening of brain cancer. He was 50 years old.

One of the founders of B.A.D. Concerts—who brought in countless rock shows until it ceased operations a few years back—and a co-owner of

The Starlite Room, McGowan had his hand in any number of other areas in the music business. During the '80s he was program director and DJ at K-97 (now K-Rock); he oversaw guitarist Bobby Cameron's career; and worked as a freelance radio consultant. Concertgoers often saw McGowan—and the immediately recognizable coif that earned him the nickname "The Hair"—with a cameraman in tow, securing interviews for Global Television. He wrote for the *Edmonton Sun*, *Vue Weekly*,

and *SEE*. Perhaps most importantly for lovers of independent and local music, he was one of the CJSR volunteers behind the drive to help the station go FM in the early '80s.

In 1980, then-program manager McGowan and station director Steve Cummings spearheaded a campaign to convince the University of Alberta Students' Union to fund the necessary equipment upgrade which resulted in the station gaining its license in 1984.

Writer and editor Gene Kosowan,

who started as a DJ at the station in the late '70s, remembers McGowan as a cool customer in the battle "Even with all the cards stacked against us getting the broadcast licence he kept it together," Kosowan says. "He saw ways around the problem. The feasibility study he did with Randy Talbot was his idea—it took a year to do, and that was the blueprint from which the station worked."

Kosowan, who remained friends and an occasional partner with McGowan on various ventures through the years, notes that McGowan was a consistent advocate of new music. For instance, it was McGowan who introduced the Sex Pistols' *Never Mind the Bollocks* into the CJSR record library, a move that didn't necessarily go over well at the station. "Half the DJs threatened to quit," Kosowan fondly recalls. "At that point, British new music at the station would have been Steeleye Span or Fairport Convention."

"That's so McGowan," laughs Dave Johnston, marketing director at The Union and a longtime friend of McGowan's. "He could smell it in the wind—Something is going on, we have to have this here."

Johnston credits McGowan with

helping him out when he first started as a booking agent for The Union. "He was a gift. Without Gary we wouldn't have the scene that we have. He constructed things, he helped people."

Johnston also notes that McGowan never called attention to himself, but was nevertheless always available whenever someone needed a helping hand. "If an organization needed someone with experience and insight, he was there," Johnston says. "If a band needed advice, he gave it. He sat on a board here, participated there—what was truly astonishing is that he was everywhere he should have been."

Kosowan adds that McGowan invariably saw the positive in every situation. "He was the living embodiment of a Trimark commercial," Kosowan says. "He could see opportunities not just for himself but for the whole community, so that everyone would gain. This city will miss him more than it knows."

McGowan is survived by wife Charlee Redman and son Braden Redman McGowan. A service has been announced for Saturday at 1 p.m. at the Strathcona Presbyterian Church.

MUSIC PREVIEW • SATANICA! • BY MATTHEW HALLIDAY | 620 words

# Are You "In League"?



From Hell They Came | Zimmer's Hole is famous for its tight horn arrangements. PHOTO SUPPLIED

## WE'LL ADMIT ZIMMER'S HOLE MIGHT LOOK LIKE A JOKE... BUT MAN, THEY SURE DON'T SOUND LIKE ONE

ZIMMER'S HOLE  
w/ Savannah Fri, Mar 14, Velvet Underground (10030-102  
\$1) Tickets: \$17, available through Ticketmaster (451-8000/vietmaster.ca).

My Zimmer's Hole interview was originally scheduled to be with lead singer "The Heathen." I didn't know what on Earth I would talk to "The Heathen" about, but it turned out not to have been a problem. At the last minute, the interview was changed: now I would be talking to bassist Byron Stroud (a terrible *nom de rock*, but whatever).

Stroud, who also plays bass in pioneering Vancouver extreme metal outfit Strapping Young Lad and currently with L.A.'s Fear Factory, turned out to be a pretty cool guy—no Heathen, maybe, but he was still able to speak to the band's music (a mixture of everything that's ever been called metal by anyone, anywhere, from freibord heroics to sub-sonic riffage and everything in between) and lyrics (a frequently hilarious send-up of metal clichés, sung with just enough hardcore commitment that you half-wonder if they're intended seriously after all) just fine.

Since the first song and title track of the new Zimmer's Hole record (*When You Were Shouting At The Devil... We Were In League With Satan*) is a dig at pansy-ass pseudo-metal outfits like Mötley Crüe, the question is inevitable: didn't anyone in Zimmer's Hole listen to at least a little of that when they were kids? It was the '80s, after all...

"Yeah, a few of us used to shout a little bit," Stroud sheepishly admits. "It was the '80s, it was everywhere. I enjoyed the first two Mötley Crüe records. But I was never really into the whole 'dude looks like a chick' thing. In the late '80s there was a lot of that around, and you go to parties and everyone is dressed up, and I was just a fat, short-haired kid. I didn't fit into that scene and I didn't

enjoy it. I was into Slayer and Metallica."

Zimmer's Hole has turned into Stroud's main project, and it seems curious that what started as a genre parody band would become the main gig for a guy who's played in bands as comparably big as Fear Factory, or as groundbreaking and influential as Strapping Young Lad (though SYL always had a certain sense of the absurd). "I like to look at it as we're a killer metal band with a sense of humour," Stroud responds. "And on this record, the humour is a little darker than in the past. There're a couple of serious songs too—or at least a serious song."

Oh? Which song would that be? "Anonymous Esophagus?" "Pork Rind Toes?" "What's My Name... Evil?"

All right, all right... hopefully no one gets the impression that the Hole are nothing more than a tossed-off joke band. They really are a killer metal outfit—they just take the hint of ridiculousness present in all metal ("How serious can you be when you're playing super-heavy riffs and screaming like an idiot?" Stroud asks) to its logical endpoint.

But then, what else would you expect from a band named after a man's sphincter?

"Oh God... it's just, okay," Stroud says. "This is years ago, when we

were just playing and hanging out on the weekends. The band was basically an excuse to hang out and drink. We were opening for this guy's band, and his name happens to be Dean Zimmer. He's a friend of ours, this big, huge guy who used to pull his pants down and run backwards to the hot chicks at parties and scare them."

Stroud pauses.

"Yeah, so that's the story. It's this idiotic story I now have to tell people all over the world.... We should come up something better, right? Something not so juvenile?"

No, Byron: it's perfect. And Zimmer's Hole is perfect too. Never change.

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w/ The Surgents, Malcolm Azania, Illfit Outfit, and Politic Live, Mar 15, Metro Billiards (10250-106 St). Tickets: \$10 (at HUB and SUB info booths), \$12 (at the door).

It's been quite the year for Edmonton's Surgents, whose electronic-flavoured alternative rock has found quite the supportive audience at Sonic 102.9, where they were recently the station's Band of the Month. Their single "The Show" has found its way onto the airwaves at Galaxie satellite radio and into regular rotation on MuchMusic. Hell, the band even made its way to Cannes for the MIDEM festival, the world's largest music industry trade fair, where they were well-received by reps from international music labels.

But the Surgents haven't let the success get to their heads: they've still found time amidst their gallivanting all over France to play the U of A's Amnesty International Benefit this week with notable local acts Politic Live and Illfit Outfit. As a band whose music contains some overt and intense political themes—the brainwashing of kids by the media, the use of television as a lethal weapon, world poverty, hunger—it's only fitting that the Surgents would want to clamber out of the studio and bring their message to local audiences. EAMON MCGRATH

## BREAKS

## BANG YER ED

## DJ MEHDI, KRAFTY KUTS

w/ Cobra Commander, The Protégé, Mandarin Orange, and All Out Dis, Mar 15 (9pm), Starlite Room (10030-102 St). Tickets: \$20, available at Fossil, Soular, Treehouse, Blackbyrd, Colourblind, and Ticketmaster.

Man, kids like noise in their music these days. Not like Wolf Eyes, Merzbow, or the kind of gangsta rap that makes prison guards pee their pants. No, they're into bright, fat, and distorted synths that sound like Chemical Brothers or Fatboy Slim on steroids. Which then get mixed with a weird funk that changes time signatures more frequently than ELO and Funkadelic put together.

These noise-loving kids have found a new hero in France's Ed Banger crew, who have picked up the crazy where Daft Punk's *Homework* left off. How anything experimental could become so popular is beyond me, but Para One's atonal techno, Justice's drilling disco, and DJ Mehdi's ferocious funk have inspired more than 7,000 fans to sign up for Ed Banger's Facebook group and hundreds of thousands of people worldwide to plunk down cash for the hard copy.

Mehdi's production is decent enough (his 2002 album *Espion* featured a jam he did with our native son K-Os, and 2006's *Lucky Boy* introduced the magnificent "Saharian Break") but the club is where he really shines—whether he's warming up Justice's crowds or sharing the stage with Krafty Kuts. Don't sleep on this chance to catch two of the most popular breaks DJs in the world—you can put off sleeping until Sunday.

PROSPER PRODANIUK

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MUSIC BUZZ • MUNICIPAL HAPPENINGS | 633 words

# Remember March 8, 2008



WILDLIFE FISH GRINKOWSKY  
SEE'S NEW MUSIC COLUMN  
DEBRIEFS AND DEBUNKS ALL  
MANNER OF SCANDAL ON THE  
E-TOWN SCENE

It's Saturday afternoon and Sherry-Lee Heschel-Wisor has just wrapped up an afternoon set at the Empress, the radiant sun at her back. The remaining drinkers mill about a group of mostly-musicians who comprise just one of many, many scenes in this fat city. These ones belong to the CKUA-friendly singer/songwriter clique (as opposed to, say, the striped-shirted kid-punk cabal that most of these quasi-folkies once belonged to). Mark Davis and Tom Murray of Old Reliable legend are here separately, Joe Bird is unapologetically hitting on my lady, and Robin Hunter is

making hilarious noise from his seat, sipping something non-alcoholic.

"Ask me what my favourite flower is," Hunter pushes a second time "No, ask me."

I bite.

"The sweet pea. All the other flowers can go to hell." Now it's official.

Hunter is busy finessing a new CD, coming out soon—his next show is April 3 at Haven.

If it weren't for the fact that the Black Dog remains closed by fire damage (about which we've heard various explanations), everyone would probably be there instead. Doing exactly the same thing. We'd just be a little closer to the Exact Centre of Town, Gateway Boulevard South, where another fire traded us Albert's for a new Starbucks a few years ago.

This same day, the city loses one of its luminaries, promoter and DJ Gary McGowan, who I've often said has the best head of hair in the city. Beneath his fantastic 'fro, seriously one of the nicest people I've ever met. Losing him is painful. Tom Murray has the full story on page 27, but one of things I loved about

Gary was running into him at the cat shows. The man loved cats, which always says something nice about a person. My condolences, Gary, you simply ruled.

## Hometown Boy

"Have you ever done coke off a book?" the song starts over porno beats. On Cadence Weapon's glittering new dance-hop disc *Afterparty Babies*, now booming across the country, there's a song called "Julianne Wilding." Mostly about creativity and gossip, the tune is named after an Edmonton ex-pat now in Toronto who was "queen bitch" of Studio E above the ARTery on east Jasper, according to the lyrics. "There are millions of people that act when they're kids—I'm sure they end up exactly like this."

Wilding recently showed up at Weapon's MTV Live gig in Toronto. "It was cool," the indie rapper says from the road. "She interviewed me for her new 'zine."

Wilding herself reacted to having the song named after her: "It's really funny, the differences in interpreta-

tion between journalists. It's not so much about us gossiping. It's way more intimate than that. It's actually a 'romantic,' poetic breakdown of our entire relationship."

"[But] I don't do coke. Don't be presumptuous!"

## Wait, Back Up

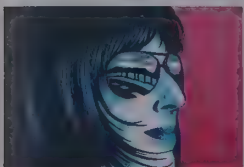
By way of introduction, this is a new weekly music column called *Wildlife*. The editors at *SEE* thought they'd take advantage of my imbedded position among the strummers, drummers, singers, and DJs to bring something rare to entertainment journalism: straying away from the "who's-fucking-who" gossip we hear about in the pubs, this will also be a

forum for little bits of news, visits to local studios, fresh stories from musicians on tour, and whatever else is interesting enough to make me go, "No way!"

I'll be calling up folks completely outside my own refined prejudices and getting their read on the city, and reviewing concerts that might otherwise get ignored, and underlining shows you'd have to be an on-purpose douchebag to miss. Basically I'm going to try and take you where I hang out, and go places I've never even thought of. There will be swearing and we will disagree about things. Feedback and gossip tidbits are welcome at [wildlife@see.greatwest.ca](mailto:wildlife@see.greatwest.ca).

ROAD STORIES • PLAYING TELEPHONE | 653 words

## Caught Midstream And In The Rafters



EAR TO THE ASPHALT ANN VRIEND  
TEXAN PROG-ROCKERS FAIR TO  
MIDLAND EXPLAIN HOW THOSE  
PEEING-ON-THE-AUDIENCE  
RUMOURS GOT STARTED

Matt Langley, keyboardist from Fair to Midland, begins this week's road story with an explanation.

"If you've watched any of our videos," he says, "you may know when our singer [Darroh Sudderth] becomes inspired, he likes to climb things. He dangles from the light rigging and things like that." (Sudderth's tendency to crawl horizontally on the light tresses, which supposedly hold their own weight plus 300 pounds, is, according to Langley, "perfectly safe.") "The band was on-stage, and [Sudderth] goes into this, and the house stage manager came over, and was yelling at our GM to bring him down. But, well, at that point, how the hell do you do that? We just finished the show instead."

Langley continues: "After the show, the headliner was loading out, and the stairway was temporarily clogged with gear, so some of us couldn't get up to the dressing room. There was

one of us in particular who had a need to use the restroom right at that time, so what this band member—who will remain unnamed—does is find a couple of empty plastic cups, goes into the corner, and uses those. And while he was midway through this process, the house manager, who was already angry with us, happens to come up the stairs, and sees a young man..."

"Peeing in a cup," I offer.

"Well, no. She didn't see the cups." "Oh!"

Langley chuckles. "Yeah. I believe the words that came out of her mouth were 'You've got to be kidding,' and she shook her head and continued up the stairs. Pretty soon a security guy comes running down and is asking everyone, 'Okay, where is it? Somebody peed on the wall. I have to clean it up, and I'm going to find the guy who did it.' But we assured him, 'The walls are unmarked. We wouldn't do that, we're not complete animals!'"

"Just partially," I suggest, referring back to Sudderth's fondness for the monkey bars.

"Well," Langley says philosophical-ly, "aren't we all?"

The story continues. "So we explain all this to the security guard, but he's not buying it. He says, 'We've got video cameras here, we're going to find out who did it, so might as well just 'fess it up now'—even though I explained to him that the band member in question was relieving himself

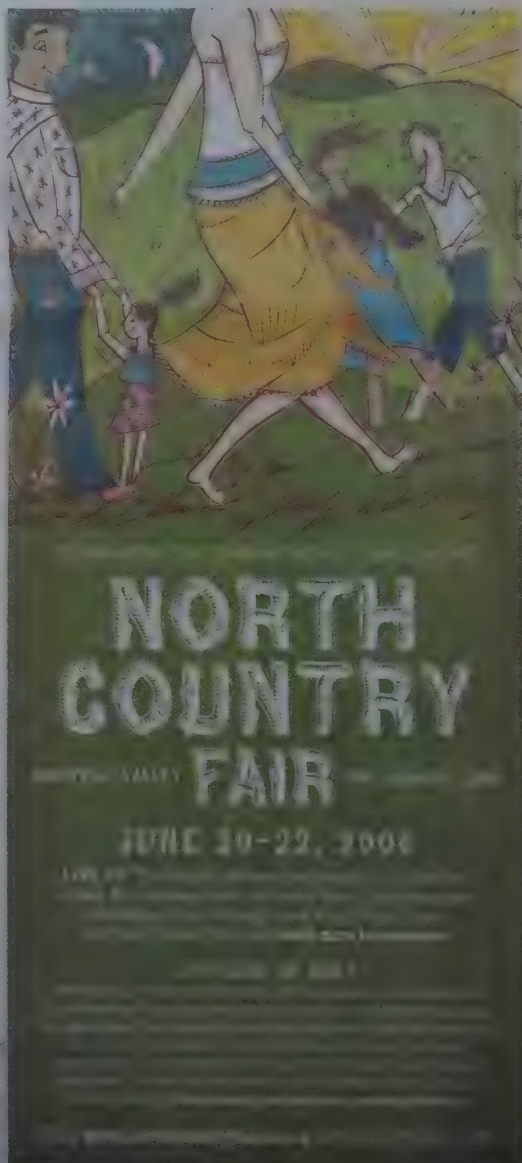
into a vessel which he then took outside and threw away. But then the security guard says, 'Well, what's the difference?' And our drummer, who was trying to get up the stairs, says, 'I could show you the difference if you'd like. There's quite a big difference.'

"Anyway, the stage manager called ahead to the next town and told the promoter we should probably be stricken from the bill because of our horrible behaviour, we're savages, we relieve ourselves wherever we want, dangle from fragile structures, and risk our lives.... But the promoter in the next town said, 'I want to see this band! Tell them to come on!'"

"That probably didn't make the stage manager any less angry," I say.

Langley laughs. "Ah, no. It has grown into quite a story with the venues. They now have this talk with us up in the greenroom: 'Okay, boys, we've heard a lot of things.... We all talk, you know. Only pee in the bathroom, please, and don't climb anything; the light structures are meant to hold the lights, nothing more,' and it's something bigger every time. It's now at this inconceivable point where they're saying our lead singer was peeing on everyone in the front row while dangling from the roof."

Fair to Midland plays the Shaw Conference Centre with Serj Tankian on March 16.



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## SEEN IT LIVE · GREAT GIGS YOU MISSED LAST WEEK



Ragga Muffins | Anirup Singh and Anita Mittal of Edmonton Ragga-Mala Music Society, performing March 6 at the Royal Alberta Museum. PHOTO BY HEATHER NOEL

### ENIGMATIC VISITORS WOMEN

Jekyll & Hyde Pub · Mar 7

Mystery and rumour surrounded Calgary's WOMEN before their first Edmonton show last Friday night. The band, made up of members of Calgary indie institutions Azeda Booth and The Cape May, have recently finished recording their first release with Chad van Gaalen at the controls—and buzz says they might be the third act on famed Calgary label Flemish Eye.

WOMEN craft difficult songs: think of the jagged ruggedness of Captain Beefheart, augmented by a heart-stopping rhythm section and forcefully transplanted to the modern age. Occasionally during their show, all four members would be crouched down, adjusting the knobs and dials hidden amidst the mass of wires and pedals at their feet.

It didn't always work; sometimes the band seemed as lost in their

angular, noisy feedback sludge as the crowd; but when WOMEN's set came together—especially their intense final song, culminating in a wall of drums and guitar noise—more than a few audience members could be caught exchanging curious glances, trying to figure out what to make of it all.

With a clutch of West Coast dates on their schedule and a trip back to Edmonton due later in the year, maybe they won't remain such a mystery for long. EAMON MCGRATH

### GUITAR HERO YOAV

Velvet Underground · Mar 10

I hesitate to describe a Yoav concert simply as a guitar *tour de force*, mostly because his tunes are like no guitar tunes you've ever heard—they're *rhythms*.

The Cape Town-raised singer/songwriter, barefoot and cheerful, ably lived up to the hype surrounding his debut

release *Charmed and Strange* Monday night. I wasn't sure what to expect, considering that hype has mostly concerned his wholly "unique" sound.

What Yoav does with a guitar can be compared to what DJs do with synthesized beats: he builds sounds for each song, then uses pedals (operated with his feet) to mix the rest. He'll start sighing into the body of his guitar, loop it, rap his knuckles on the strings, loop that, plink out some high-Floydish notes near the bridge, loop those, tweak the volume with his bare toes, and finally launch into a gorgeous, ethereal version of the Pixies' "Where Is My Mind." The layering in "Beautiful Lie" was something to behold, and would have been a showstopper had Yoav not followed it with the sweet and equally stunning "Angel and the Animal."

Add in the fact that the guy can actually sing, and well... maybe you've got a *tour de force* after all. FAWNDA MITHRUSH

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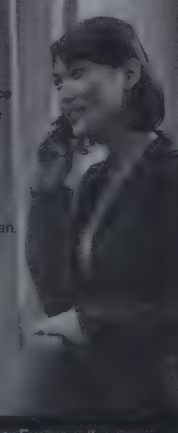
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# CD REVIEWS



## CRYSTAL CASTLES

Crystal Castles

(Last Gang)

★★★★☆

Let's be clear: Kraftwerk and Rahim Jaffer were using phony interview stand-ins long before Crystal Castles' Ethan Kath and Alice Glass. And please: plenty of DJs have been using old video-game music as dancefloor fodder for ages now. And yeah, yeah, yeah: this Toronto duo are arguably douchebags, and definitely pretentious—but they have plenty of fucking talent and interesting ideas, especially compared to most artists riding the "let's regurgitate the '80s" bandwagon. And it's not like they're ever coming over to your house for dinner, so who cares about their social graces?

Once you get past their noisy juvenile shit—which, again, is still better than most of the noisy juvenile shit out there—there's some timeless stuff on Crystal Castles' eponymous full-length debut. "Magic Spells" squashes the synth blast from Grandmaster Flash's "The Message" and squeezes it inconspicuously into wonderful ambient disco. On "Air War," Ethan Kath sinks a 50-year-old electronic vocal experiment by Luciano Berio into a darkwave electro jam. Seeing as the disc is arguably one of the most talked-about releases of the year, it's too bad Glass had to go bust up her ribs, making the Castles' much-anticipated March 3 Edmonton gig a total disaster. Ah well, I wasn't there, so it probably wasn't meant to be. But I supposed I'll show up the next time they come through town. Oops—now who's being the pretentious douchebag?

PROSPER PRODANIUK

## JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE

*The Good Life*

(Roundshot)

★★★★☆



Steve Earle's son does swell by his famous dad's name (as well as that of his namesake, Townes Van Zandt) on his debut album. An above-par collection of honkytonk stompers and plaintive ballads, *The Good Life* finds Earle taking on a wide variety of roots music genres and bringing them all off with aplomb.

It's definitely a first record, though. As fun and clever as songs like the title track, or as affecting and intimate as "Far Away in Another Town" and "What Do You Do When You're Lonely" are, everything's a little slight—no big ambitious feels of songwriting here. And though Earle is clearly in love with traditional music, he's maybe a little too faithful in his recreation of it. With all the mentions of outbound trains and honkytonking (there's even a Civil War tune), there isn't anything to indicate that *The Good Life* was released by a 25-year-old artist in 2008. Still, it's a fun, quick album that hopefully points at bigger things to come.

MATTHEW HALLIDAY

## JOSÉ GONZÁLEZ

*In Our Nature*

(Mute)

★★★★☆



"There is a certain majesty in simplicity which is far above all the quaintness of wit." So the poet said—and he said it so beautifully that maybe he should be the one reviewing *In Our Nature*. There's not a single song on this album more complicated than it needs to be. The instrumentation consists solely of González's acoustic guitar, unobtrusive synths, and gentle percussion way off in the corner of the studio; except for the mesmerizing eight-minute closer "Cycling Trivialities," the tracks are as compressed and as eloquently unassuming as a William Carlos Williams poem. Antiwar themes crop up, but González alludes obliquely to the war in Iraq rather than confront it head-on, as on the quietly stunning two-minute parable "The Nest." But "quiet" doesn't mean "dull"; indeed, González has a sense of how to give a song drama (without it turning into melodrama) that more bombastic bands would envy. "Majesty": yeah, that's the word for it.

PAUL MATWYCHUK

## MORRISSEY

*Greatest Hits*

(Deca)

★★★★☆



Morrissey, if you're reading this, I want you to know that I love you. I've got an ever-growing shrine to him in my living room. Hell, I've even got a Smiths tattoo. I'm practically a half-step away from starting a Morrissey slash fiction website. So... be warned as you read this review: Of Mozzer can do no wrong in my eyes.

With the lion's share of the tracks culled from his last three albums, his double-disc *Greatest Hits* collection serves mostly as a catchup for casual fans, (that is, if casual Morrissey fans even exist). While the two unreleased tracks are nothing to write home to Manchester about (Moz exercises his all-too-familiar tendency toward self-deprecation on "That's How People Grow Up," while "All You Need Is Me" is a glam-rock indictment of those critics who seem to obsess over him), the real prize here is the bonus disc of live material, as well as the, erm, "cheeky" shot of Moz's backside bearing the words "Your Arse An' All." Get it?

TRAVIS SARGENT

**TOP 10 MOBILE DOWNLOAD CHART**

- 1 Low Flo Rida
- 2 With You Chris Brown
- 3 Apologize Timbaland
- 4 Take You There Sean Kingston
- 5 Piece Of Me Britney Spears
- 6 Don't Stop The Music Rihanna
- 7 No One Alicia Keys
- 8 Crank That (Soulja Boy) Soulja Boy
- 9 The Way I Are Timbaland
- 10 For The Nights I Can't Remember Hedley

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# LIVE MUSIC

## THURSDAY

### ALTERNATIVE

CITY DELAYED THE STUDIO @ MEAD HALL w/ guests.  
COLD DRIVEN STARLITE ROOM w/ Westpoint and Mapping the Escape

### BLUES & ROOTS

BROCK ZEMAN HULBERT'S  
DUFF ROBISON ATLANTIC TRAP AND GILL  
MARSHALL LAWRENCE BLUE CHAIR CAFE

### JAZZ

DON BERNER FOUR ROOMS  
GRAHAM LAWRENCE JULIAN'S PIANO BAR

### POP & ROCK

LUC RIOPEL URBAN LOUNGE  
SALL GIBSON CAFE SELECT w/ Jordan Payne and Daniel Moir

### DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

DI HARRY JAMES THE DOCKS  
Every Thursday  
LOVE BOES NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE w/ Dexter Nebula & Anarchy Adam. Every Thursday  
HIGHER LEVEL THURSDAYS  
LEVEL 2 LOUNGE Drum & bass w/ DJ's Dreadnought, PhatCat, MC Enlie, and guests. Every Thursday  
JUNIOR BROWN RED STAR Every Thursday  
MIA FELLOW BUDDY'S w/ DJ West Coast Baby Daddy. Every Thursday  
SALSA STYLE THURSDAYS THE BANK ULTRA LOUNGE Every Thursday  
SHORTCUT BLACK DOG Every Thursday  
URBAN SUBSTANCE THURSDAYS GINGER SKY LOUNGE w/ Urban Substance Sound Crew. Every Thursday

### ALTERNATIVE

FOLK PUNK SHOW THE STUDIO @ MEAD HALL w/ Mr. Flow, Barne Boys, Whiskey Wagon, Seven Drinks too Many, The Endless Mummy and Max Knike  
RAINE MAIDA STARLITE ROOM w/ guests  
ZIMMER'S HOLE VELVET UNDERGROUND w/ guests

### BLUES & ROOTS

CODIE MC LACHLAN STEEPS OLD GLENORA  
DUFF ROBISON ATLANTIC TRAP AND GILL  
NICHOLAS ZYLCA CAFE LEVA  
SLEEPERS CASINO EDMONTON  
SLOWBURN CLIFF'S PUB  
SUZIE VINNICK BLUE CHAIR CAFE w/ Rick Fines  
TANYSS NIXI HULBERT'S w/ Paul Bromley

### JAZZ

ANDREW GLOVER JEFFREY'S CAFE  
DINO DOMINELLI DUO FRESH START BAKERY  
DON BERNER FOUR ROOMS  
GRAHAM LAWRENCE JULIAN'S PIANO BAR  
LESTER QUITZAU TRIO YARDBIRD SUITE

### POP & ROCK

CHRISTINE HORNE TOUCH OF CLASS  
DAVE VON BEIMER THE CARROT  
JERAS MICKEY LBS PUB  
LOU GRAMM JET NIGHT CLUB  
MOURNING WOOD URBAN LOUNGE  
VIP CASINO YELLOWHEAD

### DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

BITCH BITCH BITCH NEW CITY SUBURBS Every Friday  
CONNECTED FRIDAYS THE BANK ULTRA LOUNGE Local house & international guest DJs. Every Friday  
DI CLAY STONEHOUSE PUB Every Friday  
DI EDDY TONFLASH BUDDY'S Every Friday  
DI LOOSE CANNON IRON HORSE Every Friday  
DI SHAWNIBIS ON THE ROCKS Every Friday  
FORBIDDEN FRIDAYS EMPIRE BALLROOM Every Friday  
FORMULA FRIDAYS LEVEL 2 LOUNGE DJ Groovy Luvy, DJ Fouze. Every Friday  
FRIDAY NIGHT FREAK OUT NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE w/ Anarchy Adam & G-MHz. Every Friday  
JULY DI SUEDIE LOUNGE Every Friday  
THE MOD CLUB HALO Soul, R&B, Indie, Birt pop, new wave, Reggae & classic punk. DJ's Blue Jay & Travy D. Every Friday  
NEON NIGHTS FLUID Every Friday  
RED FRIDAYS THE DOCKS Military appreciation night. Every Friday  
ROCK THE GLOBE WEEKENDS GLOBE TAP BAR & GRILL Every Friday  
SEXY FRIDAY 180 DEGREES Reggae and Top 40 w/ Generation IVEXX & DJ G-Unit. Every Friday

### ALTERNATIVE

FIRST REIGN THE STUDIO @ MEAD HALL w/ Sinners Aide, Skepsis, Kratyn Fog and Beneath the Remains.  
TUFF GONGI VELVET UNDERGROUND Reggae party with Dub Vulture  
HAUNTED ADDICTS RENDEZVOUS PUB w/ Stratipate and Mr. Flow  
RAINE MAIDA STARLITE ROOM early show w/ guests

### BLUES & ROOTS

DUFF ROBISON ATLANTIC TRAP AND GILL  
KAT DANCER BLUE CHAIR CAFE  
KEITH REMPEL TRIO HULBERT'S  
SLEEPERS CASINO EDMONTON

### JAZZ

DON BERNER FOUR ROOMS  
GRAHAM LAWRENCE JULIAN'S PIANO BAR  
HARPE JAZZ JEFFREY'S CAFE  
LESTER QUITZAU TRIO YARDBIRD SUITE

### POP & ROCK

ACE FREHLEY EDMONTON EVENT CENTRE  
CHRISTINE HORNE TOUCH OF CLASS  
JERAS MICKEY LBS PUB  
MOURNING WOOD URBAN LOUNGE  
VIP CASINO YELLOWHEAD

### DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

ATHLETES' NIGHT RATT w/ DJ Knies. Every Saturday  
CLAY STONEHOUSE PUB Every Saturday  
DI HOT PHILLY RED STAR Every Saturday  
DI NIC-E SUEDIE LOUNGE Every Saturday  
FOR THOSE WHO KNOW HALO House w/ Junior Brown, Luke Morrison, and Nestor Delano. Every Saturday  
KRAFTYKUTS STARLITE ROOM w/ DJ Mehdi and guests

THE MENACE SESSIONS BLACK DOG w/ Miss Mannered. Every Saturday  
OH SNAP! THE TEMPLE Degree & All Out DJs. Every Saturday  
PLANET INDIGO SUGGESTIVE SATURDAYS LEVEL 2 LOUNGE Breaks, electro, house, spun by Presidents. Every Saturday  
RED CARPET SATURDAYS EMPIRE BALLROOM Every Saturday  
ROCK THE GLOBE WEEKENDS GLOBE TAP BAR & GRILL Every Saturday  
SATURDAYS SUCK NEW CITY w/ Greg Gory and Blue Jay. Every Saturday  
SUGGESTIVE SATURDAYS LEVEL 2 LOUNGE Every Saturday  
URBAN DANCE PARTY IRON HORSE w/ DJ 420. Every Saturday

### ALTERNATIVE

SOUJIAN FYAH ON THE ROCKS Every Sunday

### BLUES & ROOTS

ROSSETTE GUITARS BLUE CHAIR CAFE

### DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

DI RUDEY ELECTRO BUDDY'S House, progressive, trip-hop. Every Sunday  
GOT TO GIVE IT UP BLACK DOG w/ DJ Red Dawn. Every Sunday  
HOUSE ARREST STOLL'S w/ Johnny Dangerous, Andy Inertia, and guests. Every Sunday

### BLUES & ROOTS

JASON GREELEY AND BILLY WISEMAN ATLANTIC TRAP AND GILL

### DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

DI RUDEY ELECTRO BUDDY'S Every Monday  
ELECTRIC NONSENSE BLACK DOG w/ Confederacy of Dunces, Dad Rock, DJ Hookah, and Rear Admiral Saunders. Every Monday  
MUNCH ON METAL MONDAYS NEW CITY LIKWID LOUNGE Every Monday

### THURSDAY

### ALTERNATIVE

THE CLUMSY LOVERS VELVET UNDERGROUND w/ guests

### POP & ROCK

MELODY UNWINDING WINDSOR BAR

### DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

DI ARROWCHASER BUDDY'S Every Tuesday  
DI HOT PHILLY RED STAR Experimental indie rock, hip hop and electro. Every Tuesday  
COOL LATIN TUESDAYS FUNKY BUDDHA Dance Lessons. Every Tuesday

### ALTERNATIVE

MY SISTER OCEAN URBAN LOUNGE w/ Red Ramona and Stereo Kill

### BLUES & ROOTS

SLOWBURN O'BRYEN ON WHYTE

### DJS/CLUB NIGHTS

BEATPARTY WEDNESDAYS STOLL'S Every Wednesday  
DJ HARLEY THE BANK Every Wednesday

GLITTER GULCH WEDNESDAYS BLACK DOG w/ DJ Buster Friendly. Every Wednesday  
GUEST DJ RED STAR Every Wednesday  
RETROACTIVE RADIO BLACK DOG, WOODTOP w/ LL Cool Joe. Every Wednesday  
ROCK OUT WITH YER BOX OUT NEW CITY Every Wednesday  
WILD CHERRY WEDNESDAYS STOLL'S w/ Tripswitch, Resident Funk, Steve Velocity, Fusion. Every Wednesday  
WILD STYLE WEDNESDAYS HIP-HOP VELVET UNDERGROUND Every Wednesday

## CONCERTS

ALL NIGHT VIGIL MAR 21, 7:30 PM THE WINSPEAR CENTRE  
Pro Coro Canada presents Rachmaninoff's masterpiece. Tickets at the Winspear Box Office. 428-1414  
BUDDY WASISNAME & THE OTHER FELLERS MAR 13-16, 7:30 PM FESTIVAL PLACE Tickets \$32 at the Festival Place Box Office  
BUSKER'S BALL MAR 21, 6:30 PM NAKED ON JASPER, 10354 JASPER AVE. Benefit for the Parkland Institute, featuring local musicians. Admission by donation. Info: 433-5159  
DAVE WALL & KEN READ MAR 15, 2:30-3:30 PM EDMONTON MORAVIAN CHURCH, 9540 83 AVE. Dave Wall on Novas 8 String & Roland Guitar Synth with Ken Read on Bass Trombone and Stomp Boxes. Special guests: Craig Brennan, J.C. Jones and Alden Lowry. Admission by donation.  
DESSERT CONCERT MAR 20, 6 PM WINSPEAR CENTRE Presented by The Kokopelli Choir Association. Three ensembles, including the Kokopelli Youth Choir, will perform throughout the evening, offering a varied repertoire including African favourites. Tickets: \$18 Adults, \$10 Students/Seniors at the Winspear Centre box office.  
EXPLORATIONS CONCERT SERIES UNTIL SEP 27, 7 PM STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY THEATRE Presented by The Edmonton Creative Musicians' Collective. Tickets \$15, \$10 students. Info: 496-7000  
JACK WILLIAMS MAR 28, 7 PM ST. BASIL'S CULTURAL CENTRE With Rob Heath. Tickets: \$17 and advance at TIX, \$20 at the door.  
JAZZ AND REFLECTIONS EVERY SUN, MAR 30-APR 27, 3:30-5 PM RITCHE UNITED CHURCH, 9624 74 AVE. Spring concert series. MAR 30 The Kent Sangster Trio. Info: 463-7442  
JAZZ CHOIR/JAZZ COMBO CONCERT APR 5, 7:30 PM JOHN L. HAAR THEATRE Directed by John McMillan. Tickets: \$7 Adults, \$5 Students/Seniors at TIX  
JILL AND MATTHEW BARBER MAR 27, 5 PM AND 8:30 PM MYER HORNWITZ THEATRE Tickets \$14 at Blackbird, Megatunes, and Listen Records  
MARIA DUNN MAR 15, QUEEN ALEXANDRA HALL Presented by Northern Lights Folk Club. Tickets \$18 at Acoustic Music, Myrie's Music or TIX  
MUSIC WEDNESDAYS AT NOON WED, 12:10-12:50 PM MCDONAGH UNITED CHURCH MAR 19 Leanne Reghe. Free admission, bring a bag lunch. Tea and coffee available. Info: 468-4964  
PATRICK KEARNEY MAR 28, 8 PM MUTTART HALL, ALBERTA COLLEGE, 10050 McDONALD DR. Celebrating the music of Manuel Ponce. Presented by The Edmonton Classical Guitar Society. Tickets: \$25 regular, \$20 Students/Seniors/ECCS members at TIX

PERCUSSION CONCERT MAR 30, 7:30 PM JOHN L. HAAR THEATRE, MACWAIN CENTRE FOR THE ARTS Presenting a wide range of drumming styles, solos and a 15 piece percussion ensemble by MacWain's percussion students. Tickets: \$7.55 students/seniors at TIX or the door  
RON HYNES & CHUCK BRODSKY MAR 28, 7:30 PM FESTIVAL PLACE Tickets \$32 at the Festival Place Box Office  
RHYTHM OF THE PEOPLE MAR 30, 7:30 PM FESTIVAL PLACE, 100 FESTIVAL WAY, SHERWOOD PARK A fundraising concert for One Child's Village charity. Including the Bomba Quartet, Stewart MacDougall, Memeza Africa Choir, Christian Mena, Brent Parkin, Lionel Rault, Ron Rault, Mark Sterling, and Tacey Ryde. Tickets: \$32 table, \$30 boxes, \$28 seats at the Festival Place Box Office or TIX  
SPRING BOUQUETS MAR 18, 7 PM MCDONAGH UNITED CHURCH EDMONTON Columbian children's, children's and adult choirs. Tickets: \$15 at the door  
SONGWRITERS' CONCERT APR 6, 7:30 PM JOHN L. HAAR THEATRE, MACWAIN CENTRE FOR THE ARTS 10 students perform their original pieces. Under the direction of Alex Bean-Sedmak. Tickets: \$7 Adults, \$5 Students/Seniors at TIX

## OPEN STAGE

### THURSDAY

180 DEGREES 9 pm. Hip hop open mic hosted by DJ Dirty Needlz  
BACKDRAUGHT PUB 9 pm. Everyone welcome.  
DUSTERS PUB 9 pm-1 am. Hosted by The Wonitha Thomas Band.  
EDDIE SHORTS 9 pm.  
J.R. GRILL & BAR 9 pm-1 am. Hosted by The Shameless Plugs. All styles welcome. BYO instrument, drums & PA provided.  
NAKED CYBER CAFE & ESPRESSO BAR 8 pm. Bring your own instruments, poetry, etc.  
NORTH GLENORA COMMUNITY LEAGUE 7 pm. Jam

## HIGHLIGHT • METAL



First Reign | A hellishly entertaining good time is guaranteed. PHOTO SUPPLIED

### First Reign • Sat, Mar 15 - The Studio at Mead Hall

Canada's answer to the Swedish death-metal scene, progressive Vancouver death-metalers First Reign are becoming a big, bloody deal in heavy music circles. They'll be joined at The Studio by Sinner's Aide, Skepsis, Kratyn Fog, and Beneath The Remains for a night of headbanging action so intense you'll need a neck brace.

hosted by the Wild Rose Old Time Fiddlers Association. Info: Ray, 457-9417

### SATURDAY

BLUES ON WHYTE 4-8:30 pm. Afternoon jam.  
THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE 7-10 pm. Music and poetry open mic.  
COAST TO COAST 9 pm-2 am. w/ Troy P Wright.  
MORANGE'S TEA CAFE 7-10 pm. Hosted by Tommy. Info: www.morangesiteofcafe.com  
THE NEW TAPHOUSE 3-7 pm. Molson open stage, hosted by Carmen Cook  
STRATHEARN PUB 2ND SAT EVERY MONTH 5-9 pm. Hosted by The Royal Tease, followed by karaoke.

### SUNDAY

CROWN & ANCHOR PUB 3 pm. Open jam & auditions to play at C&A.  
DUSTERS PUB Hosted by The Mary Thomas Band.  
EDDIE SHORTS 9 pm. Hosted by Rob Taylor, instruments and gear provided.  
HOOIGANZ PUB Afternoon jam hosted by Rock 'n Roll Kenny.  
HULBERT'S 7-10 pm. Hosted by Rhea March. Info: www.hulberts.ca  
NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL 3-6 pm. Hosted by Willie James & Crawford.  
O'BRYEN'S IRISH PUB 9 pm. Hosted by Joe Bird.  
THE OVERDRIVE 1:30-5 pm. "Anything Goes" afternoon acoustic jam hosted by The Shufflehound.  
TEDDY'S LOUNGE & EATERY 9:30 pm.  
YESTERDAYS PUB 2 pm-6 pm. Hosted by the Killer Cowboys.

### MONDAY

LB'S PUB 9 pm-12:30 am. Hosted by Shaved Posse: Ken, Fred, Gordie, and Matt.  
PLEASANTVIEW HALL 7 pm. Acoustic fiddle jam hosted by Wild Rose Old Time Fiddlers Society. Info: Willy, 474-5270.  
THE IVORY CLUB 8 pm. Hosted by Marty Vinko.  
ROSE BOWL/ROUGE LOUNGE 8:30 pm w/ Mike McDonald and Sherry-Lee Wisor.

### TUESDAY

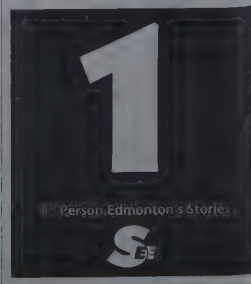
THE DRUID 9 pm. Hosted by Chris Wynters.  
THE TAPHOUSE 8:30 pm-1 am. Moosehead Jam, hosted by Mark Ammar, Dale Collins, and Noel Mackenzie.

### WEDNESDAY

CAFE BRITT 7-9 pm. Hosted by Paul LePage.  
THE ROCK PUB Acoustic night.  
EDDIE SHORTS Open mic, all gear provided.  
HOOIGANZ PUB 7:30 pm. Hosted by Rock 'n Roll Kenny.  
LITTLE FLOWER OPEN STAGE 8 pm. Hosted by Brian Gregg. Info: www.littleflower.ca or 429-3624.  
THE NEW TAPHOUSE 5 pm. Hosted by Danny Floyd.  
PLEASANTVIEW HALL 7:30 pm. Bluegrass jam hosted by Northern Bluegrass Circle Music Society. Info: 434-5997.  
STEEPS TEA LOUNGE Acoustic open mic every Wed, last Wed every month Spoken Word open mic. Email: Jessie at j.jalbert@gmail.com by Mondays to book a spot that week.

## KARAOKE

B-STREET BAR Wed-Sun w/ Brad Scott.  
BLIND PIG Wed & Fri w/ Shelley.  
BUOY'S LOUNGE Fri & Sat, 9 pm-1:30 am w/ Mr. Entertainment.  
CHIMMY'S Thu, Fri, Sat 9:30 pm-1:30 am w/ Jimmy.  
CHRISTOPHER'S PUB Tue, 9 pm w/ Sonia/Prosound.  
CROWN & ANCHOR PUB Thu, 10:30 pm.



# COMING

MAR 13 — LENNY KRAVITZ Rexall Place  
MAR 13 — THE WAYBACKS McDougall United Church  
MAR 14 — LOU GRAMM Jet Nightclub  
MAR 14 — RAINE MAIDA Starlite Room  
MAR 14 — ZIMMER'S HOLE Velvet Underground  
MAR 15 — ACE FREEMLEY Edmonton Event Centre  
MAR 14-15 — RAINE MAIDA Starlite Room  
MAR 15 — KRAFTY KULTS Starlite Room  
MAR 16 — SCRI/TANKIAN, FAIR TO MIDLAND Shaw Conference Centre  
MAR 17 — ANGELOUE KIDJO Winspear Centre  
MAR 17 — GREAT BIG SEA River Cree Casino  
MAR 17 — MARTINA MCBRIDE Rexall Place  
MAR 19 — THREE GRACES, PAUL POTTS Winspear Centre  
MAR 20 — GLASS TIGER Empire Ballroom  
MAR 21 — FROSTED TIES Velvet Underground  
MAR 21 — JESSE ROSE Fluid Lounge  
MAR 21 — WUNDERLAND W Edmonton Event Centre  
MAR 24 — HAWKINSLEY WORKMAN Winspear Centre  
MAR 25 — ALSON COLLETT, PETER ELIAS Starlite Room  
MAR 25 — PAUL KELLY, PATRICK PARKY Velvet Underground  
MAR 25 — PASCAL FLATS, TAYLOR SWIFT Rexall Place  
MAR 26 — DRAGONETTE Starlite Room  
MAR 26 — JULIE DORON Velvet Underground  
MAR 27 — TIT, SLIGHTLY STOOPID Edmonton Events Centre  
MAR 27 — JUL BARBER, MATT BARBER Myer Horowitz  
MAR 27 — MINUS THE BEAR Starlite Room  
MAR 28 — BORN RUFIANS, PLANTS & ANIMALS Velvet Underground  
MAR 28 — DANNY MICHEL Myer Horowitz  
MAR 28 — GRIMSKUNK, BROKEN NOSE, ALPHA GALATES Starlite Room  
MAR 28 — LOS LOBOS, JAMES HUNTER Jubilee Auditorium  
MAR 28 — FOD FIGHTERS, AGAINST MEL, HIFI HANDGRENADES Rexall Place  
MAR 31 — BLACK MOUNTAIN, LADYHAWK Starlite Room  
APR 1 — THE CULT, THE CLUES Edmonton Event Centre  
APR 1 — LOS LONELY BOYS Myer Horowitz  
APR 3 — CORB LUND & THE HURTIN' ALBERTANS Rexall Place  
APR 4 — BEDOUIN SOUNDCLASH Grant MacEwan College  
APR 7 — NEW MODEL ARMY New City  
APR 9 — DIMMU BORGIR Edmonton Event Centre  
APR 14 — CHODOS, PROTEST THE HERO, FALL OF TROY Edmonton Event Centre  
APR 15 — CARIBOU, FUCK BUTTONS Starlite Room  
APR 17 — ALAN JACKSON, BROOKS & DUNN Rexall Place  
APR 18 — LYLE LOVETT Winspear Centre  
APR 19 — OYSTERBAND Festival Place  
APR 20 — PRITI PAGE Winspear Centre  
APR 22 — TASTE OF CHAOS TOUR, AVENGED SEVENFOLD, REVEYU BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE Northlands Agrimom  
APR 24 — SEBASTIAN, KAVINSKY Starlite Room  
APR 28 — TIGER ARMY Starlite Room  
MAY 1 — EROL ALKAN Starlite Room  
MAY 2 — ANNE MURRAY Jubilee Auditorium  
MAY 3 — A1 LAY DING, MISSEY SIGNALS, AUGUST BURNS 180 Starlite Room  
MAY 6 — AMERICAN STEEL Agrimom  
MAY 6 — NOIX, NO USE FOR A NAME, AMERICAN STEEL Northlands Agrimom  
MAY 11 — MEGADETH, IN FLAMES, CHILDREN OF BODOM, ZEPH FOR A COWBOY, HIGH ON FIRE Shaw Conference Centre  
MAY 12 — TOKYO POLICE CLUB Starlite Room  
MAY 13 — DESTROYER, DEVON WILLIAMS Starlite Room  
MAY 16 — NIGHTWISH, SONIC SYNDICATE Starlite Room  
MAY 18 — CLIMBLY LOVERS Velvet Underground  
MAY 19 — GEORGE THOROGOOD & THE DESTROYERS Winspear Centre  
MAY 20 — LADYTRON, DATOROCK Starlite Room  
MAY 22 — LE MYSTERE DES VOIX BULGARES McDougall United Church  
MAY 24-25 — NEVERTHELESS, THOUSAND FOOT CRUTCH Northlands  
MAY 25 — TAJ MAHAL, THE BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA Winspear Centre  
MAY 26 — POISON THE WELL, KILLSWITCH ENGAGE, THROUDOWN Edmonton Event Centre  
MAY 27 — RUSH Rexall Place  
MAY 28 — CITY AND COLOUR, SLEEPERCAR Jubilee Auditorium  
MAY 29 — KANYE WEST, RIHANNA, LUPE FIASCO, N.E.R.D. Rexall Place  
JUN 3 — TOM JONES Jubilee Auditorium  
JUN 6 — K.D. LANG Jubilee Auditorium  
JUN 13 — PAUL BRANDT Shaw Conference Centre  
JUN 15 — CRAIG FERGUSON Winspear Centre  
JUN 19-20 — CIRQUE DU SOLEIL "SALTIMBANCO" Rexall Place  
JUN 21 — MATTHEW GOOD Jubilee Auditorium  
JUL 12 — JAMES TAYLOR Rexall Place  
JUL 13 — SERENA RYDER Winspear Centre  
AUG 12 — TOM PETTY & THE HEARTBREAKERS, STEVE WINWOOD Rexall Place  
OCT 24-25 — CELINE DION Rexall Place  
NOV 5 — JAN TYSON Winspear Centre  
NOV 27 — THE BARBRA MACNEILS Myer Horowitz

# VENUE GUIDE

180 DEGREES RESTAURANT & NIGHTCLUB 10730-107 AVE. 414-0233  
ARDEN THEATRE 451 ST. ANNE ST. ST. ALBERT 459-1542  
THE ARTERY 9535 JASPER AVE.  
ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL 7704-104 ST. 432-4611  
AVENUE SKATEPARK 9030-118 AVE. 477-2149  
AXIS CAFE 10349 JASPER AVE. 990-0031  
BACKDRAUGHT PUB 6307-99 ST. 430-9200  
BAR WILD 10551 WHYTE AVE. 432-0814  
BELL & COURT PUB 200-10A MAIN BLVD. SHERWOOD PARK 464-1236  
BLACK DOG 10425-82 AVE. 439-1082  
BLIND PIG 832 ST. ANNE ST. ST. ALBERT 418-6332  
BLUE CHAIR CAFE 9624-76 AVE. 909-2861  
BLUES ON WHYTE 10329-82 AVE. 439-5058  
B-STREET BAR 11810-111 AVE. 414-0545  
BUDDY'S 112758 JASPER AVE. 488-1736  
BUD'S LOUNGE CAPILANO MALL, 96 AVE. & 50 ST. 469-5588  
CAFE LEVA 11053-86 AVE. 439-5382  
CAFE BRITTI 120 MCLEOD AVE. SPRUCE GROVE 962-2571  
THE CARROT ARTS COFFEEHOUSE 9351-118 AVE. 471-1580  
CASTLEDOWNS PUB 16753-100 ST. 457-7111  
CASINO EDMONTON 7055 ARGYLE RD. 463-9467  
CASINO YELLOWHEAD 12464-153 ST. 424-9467  
CENTURY CASINO 13103 FORT RD. 434-4000  
CHIMMY'S 8304-14 AVE. 478-1770  
CHRISTOPHER'S PARTY PUB 2021 MILLBOURNE RD. 462-6565  
CLIFF'S PUB & PANTRY 8214-175 ST. 481-8887  
COCODI 10160-1004 ST. 425-1177  
COAST TO COAST PUB 5552 CALGARY TRAIL 439-8675  
CROWN & ANCHOR PUB 15277 CASTLEDOWNS RD. 472-7696  
CROWN PUB 10709-109 ST. 428-5618  
DOYLE'S PUB 2619-151 AVE. 473-1961  
THE DRUID 11606 JASPER AVE. 454-9928  
DUSTERS PUB 6402-118 AVE. 474-5554  
ECCO PUB 9605-66 AVE. 435-5050  
EDDIE SHORTS 10713-124 ST. 453-3663  
ELEMENT LOUNGE 10807-106 AVE. 420-1530  
EMPIRE BALLROOM WEM. UPPER LEVEL PHASE II, 486-9494  
EMPRESS ALE HOUSE 9912-82 AVE. 758-2754  
ESMERLINDA'S THE RAMADA ON KINGSWAY, 11834-KINGSWAY AVE. 453-7320  
EXPRESSONZ CAFE 20125-107 AVE. 471-9125  
FESTIVAL PLACE 100 FESTIVAL WAY, SHERWOOD PARK 464-2852  
FIDDLER'S ROOST 8906-99 ST. 439-9788  
FILTHY MCNASTYS 2ND FL., 10511-87 AVE. 432-5224  
FORT GAMING LOUNGE & SPORTS BAR 13403 FORT RD. 406-2916  
FOUR ROOMS 137 CITY CENTRE EAST, 426-4767  
FOX PUB 10125-109 ST. 990-0680  
FRESH START CAFE 484 RIVERBEND SQUARE, 433-9623  
FUNKY BUDDHA 10341-82 AVE. 433-9676  
GAS PUMP 10160-114 ST. 488-4843  
H2O SPORTS BAR & LOUNGE 10044-82 AVE. 433-5794  
HALO 10538 JASPER AVE. 423-4256  
HAWKEYE'S TOO 10044-102 ST. 421-9988  
HILLTOP PUB 8220-106 AVE. 490-7359  
HOOGLIGANZ PUB 10704-124 ST. 452-1168  
HULBERT'S 7601-115 ST. 436-1161  
IVORY CLUB & EBONY LOUNGE 2940 CALGARY TR. SOUTH, 465-6800  
JEFFREYS CAFE & WINE BAR 9640-142 ST. 451-8890  
JEKVILL & HYDE PUB 10610-100 AVE. 426-5381  
JET NIGHTCLUB & SPORTS LOUNGE 9227-34 AVE. 466-6552  
JOHN L. HALL THEATRE 10045-155 ST. CENTRE FOR THE ARTS, 497-4340  
J.R. GRILL & BAR 3901-106 ST. 436-4403  
JUGS PUB 7450-82 AVE. 465-4046  
JULIAN'S PIANO BAR CHATEAU LOUIS, 11727 KINGSWAY AVE. 452-7770  
KEEP IT SIMPLE (KIS) CLUB 11720-82 ST. 471-4705  
KNIGHTS PUB SOUTH 1919-105 ST. 461-0587  
LB'S PUB 27 ANNS DR. ST. ALBERT 460-9100  
THE LOCKER ROOM 10209-100 AVE. 471-8891  
MCDUGALL UNITED CHURCH 10025-101 ST. 428-1818  
MEGATONES 10355-82 AVE. 436-6342  
METRO BILLIARDS 10250-106 ST. 990-0704  
MOJO'S PLACE 10175-88 AVE. FORT SASX, 992-0505  
MONA LISA PUB 9606-118 AVE. 477-7752  
MORANGO'S TEK CAFE 10118-79 ST. 450-9906  
MURRIETA'S 10612-82 AVE. 438-4100  
MUTTART HALL ALBERTA COLLEGE, 10050 MACDONALD RD. 497-5040  
NAKED CYBER CAFE & ESPRESSO BAR 10354 JASPER AVE. 425-9730  
NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL 6108-90 AVE. 490-1999  
NEW CITY 10081 JASPER AVE. 429-CLUB  
NIKITA'S 10163-1004 ST. 414-0266  
NORTH GLENORA COMMUNITY LEAGUE 13535-109A AVE. 452-6610  
O'BRYEN'S IRISH PUB 10616-82 AVE. 414-6766  
ON THE ROCKS 11740 JASPER AVE. 482-4767  
THE OVERDRIVE 6104-104 ST. 439-9485  
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MOVIE REVIEW • SHOT-FOR-SHOT REMAKE • BY PAUL MATWYCHUK (855 words)

## You Are Going To Hate This Movie

**FUNNY GAMES' AUDIENCE-ALIENATING SHENANIGANS MIGHT ACTUALLY CAUSE A RIOT IN THE THEATRE**

### FUNNY GAMES

Directed by Michael Haneke. Starring Naomi Watts, Tim Roth, Michael Pitt. Opens Fri, Mar 14.

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

Wow, are people going to hate *Funny Games*. And I mean *hate*. People aren't just going to come out of it the way they did at *The Da Vinci Code*, shrugging and saying, "Boy, that was a bad movie," and then grabbing something to eat. Because it's *not* a bad movie—it's very professionally made and skillfully acted, especially by Naomi Watts and Tim Roth.

But that's not going to matter, because *Funny Games* betrays the expectations of its audience in such a fundamental way that I'm sure most people's reaction will be to reject it utterly. The hate that this movie will generate is the kind that will persist for generations. It's a hate that will bind married couples together and cause couples who see the movie on their first date to break up for good. I'm kind of eager to see it on the opening weekend, actually, if only to see how the crowd reacts to a particularly outrageous moment involving a TV remote control. I honestly wouldn't be surprised if people started throwing things at the screen.

But let's back up a bit. *Funny Games* is writer/director Michael Haneke's shot-for-shot remake of his own 1997 German-language film, with Watts and Roth assuming the roles originally played by Susanne Lothar and Ulrich Mühe: Ann and George, a happy, well-to-do married couple who go on vacation with their son at their lake house, only to be taken hostage by a pair of polite

young sociopaths in tennis whites who proceed to torture them for no apparent reason save their own perverted amusement. At first, Haneke directs the film in a conventional (if somewhat clinical) manner, creating an underlying atmosphere of dread even as the happy family arrives at the lake house, and lingering on details (e.g., a dropped knife forgotten in the hull of a sailboat) as if to tip us off that they'll be reincorporated later on in the story.

But don't be fooled! The only reason Haneke, a former philosophy student, bothers setting up these tropes in the first place is so he can knock them down later on and shock you out of your complacency (Yes, you! Sitting there with your popcorn, expecting to be entertained! Michael Haneke's fed up with you!)

The first hint that there's something strange going on in this movie comes when Michael Pitt, playing one of the two home invaders, tells Ann to go looking for the family dog and then turns towards the camera and smirks complicitly at the audience, as if to confirm our suspicion that he's killed it already. As the film progresses, Pitt acknowledges the audience's presence even more overtly, asking us if he thinks the family will survive and explaining that he's only doing certain things because it makes the story more dramatic.

I saw the original *Funny Games* when it first came out, and I didn't like it much. Back then, a lot of reviewers, noting the way the two killers casually refer to each other as "Tom and Jerry" or "Beavis and Butt-head," interpreted the film as a comment on how TV has completely desensitized a generation of young people to violence. Viewed through that lens, I thought the film was pretty facile. Nowadays, however, it's



**The Tracks Of Her Tears** | Naomi Watts turns on the waterworks in Michael Haneke's English-language remake of *Funny Games*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

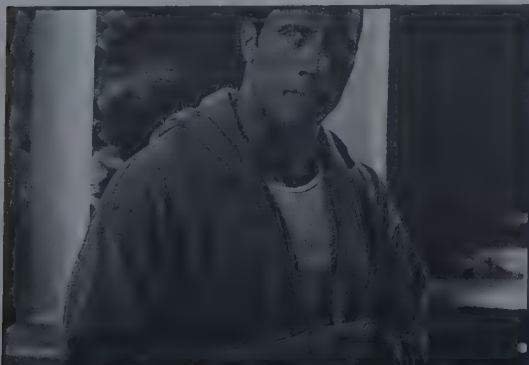
clear that Haneke's true target isn't numbed-out TV-watching young people but the very audience who would pay money to see the kind of movie *Funny Games* appears to be. Why, Haneke asks, do we regard torture and violence as entertainment? What is the nature of the pleasure we derive from certain types of onscreen death, and what happens when those scenes are taken away from us?

I think I understand Haneke's intentions better this time out, but I still don't think his point holds any more water. Surely Haneke realizes that onscreen violence in the context of a dramatic story and real-life violence are very different things. Only

a psychotic would confuse the two, and yet Haneke seems to regard our taste for onscreen violence as being somehow immoral.

You don't have to be some kind of film theorist to be aware that all movies are constructed objects that obey established conventions—every one who's ever shouted back at the screen during a clichéd horror movie knows that. And so Pitt's winks and smirks to the camera aren't the least bit shocking or daring—they're just exasperating. (That said, I did laugh when Pitt petulantly remarks that we're probably rooting for the family, as if it's exactly the bourgeois reaction he was expecting from us.)

But Haneke's attitude toward the audience often seems as condescending as Pitt's. In *No Country for Old Men*, the Coen Brothers also deliberately violated thriller conventions, pulling the rug out from our identification with the apparent main character and denying us the violent catharsis all our years of moviegoing training had led us to expect. But they also gave us a deeper and more profound vision of the world in exchange. In *Funny Games*, Haneke doesn't leave us with much more than an arid academic exercise, a stealth experiment in audience manipulation. Let's hope the subjects don't riot and tear up the laboratory.



**Rock Around The Clock** | Dwayne Johnson battles rips in the space-time continuum (and Richard Kelly's insane screenplay) in *Southland Tales*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

## DVD DICTATOR • THE MOVIES YOU MUST BUY THIS TUESDAY

### TRAINWRECK

#### SOUTHLAND TALES

CAST | Dwayne Johnson, Seann William Scott, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Justin Timberlake

Oh sure... most DVD roundups this week will be highlighting the home-video release of multiple Oscar nominee *Atonement* or maybe the sci-fi blockbuster *I Am Legend*, but to the Dictator, none of this week's new releases are more hotly anticipated than Richard Kelly's followup to his 2001 cult sensation *Donnie Darko*. The reviews have generally dismissed this postapocalyptic comedy as a completely incomprehensible disaster—but as completely incomprehensible disasters go, it's one of the greatest ever made!

### CRITERION

#### THE ICE STORM

CAST | Kevin Kline, Sigourney Weaver, Christina Ricci, Joan Allen, Tobey Maguire, Elijah Wood

Criterion waves its magic wand over Ang Lee's 1997 tale of sexual anomie in '70s suburbia—previously only available in a bare-bones edition from Fox—and while the film is as exquisitely depressing as ever, the abundant special features should gladden the heart of any film buff. Lee and producer/screenwriter James Schamus do a commentary, Rick Moody (who wrote the original novel) weighs in with his thoughts, plus someone's rounded up all the principal cast and crew members for a fresh batch of interviews.

### TV SERIES

#### BATTLESTAR GALACTICA: SEASON 3

CAST | Edward James Olmos, Mary McDonnell, Tricia Helfer, Katee Sackhoff

The survivor count keeps dwindling, the Cylon sleeper agents keep appearing, and the Iraq War parallels keep multiplying in the third season of the acclaimed sci-fi series—which now that *The Wire* is over, just might be the most ambitious, morally complex show on TV. That's more than can be said for *The Erotic Woman*, co-creator David Eick's recent attempt to revitalize another cheesy '80s sci-fi series, whose first and only season arrives on DVD this week.

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★★★★★  
—RUSSELL COLE NOIR MAGAZINE

**"A BUOYANT COMEDY,  
BRIMMING WITH WARMTH AND HOPE!"**  
—BRIAN D. JOHNSON MAGLANS

**"CHARMING, LOVELY AND HARD TO RESIST!"**  
—A O. SEOTT THE NEW YORK TIMES

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**"SUBTLE AND RAZOR-SMART!"**  
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—BRUCE KIRKPAND • TORONTO SUN

**"LABAKI HAS A SENSUOUS LOVELINESS AS AN  
ACTRESS AND A GENTLE TOUCH AS A FILMMAKER.  
The movie has a sweet tone and stirring performances!"**  
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**CANNES 2007  
DIRECTORS' FORTNIGHT**



**Caramel**  
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# Juno Goes To Pieces



Where's Michael Cera When You Need Him? | Ellen Page searches fruitlessly for a sympathetic ear in *The Tracey Fragments*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

## ELLEN PAGE TRIES TO PULL HERSELF TOGETHER IN THE INVENTIVELY KALEIDOSCOPIC *THE TRACEY FRAGMENTS*

### THE TRACEY FRAGMENTS

Directed by Bruce McDonald. Starring Ellen Page, Ari Cohen, The Sorrowd, Mar 14-15, 21-24. Metro Cinema (Zeidler Hall, The Gravel).

★★★★☆

"My name is Tracey Berkowitz,

15—just a normal girl who hates herself."

Thus begins our cinematic voyage into the mind of a Winnipeg teenager sitting on the backseat of a public bus clad only in a shower curtain. Bruce McDonald's *The Tracey Fragments* follows its protagonist (indie it-girl Ellen Page) as she searches the city for her little brother, who believes himself to be a dog—or is she really escaping her passive-ag-

gressive dad and chronically disappointed mom? Because she's in Winnipeg, she encounters many an unsavoury character along the way, though it's hard to imagine anyone more horrible than her cruel high school classmates.

*The Tracey Fragments*—adapted for the screen by Maureen Medved from her own novel—takes a unique narrative approach, frequently dividing the frame into several sections to let us in on the kaleidoscopic nature of Tracey's thoughts, which accommodate past, present, worst-case scenario, and wishful thinking all at the same time. The question is, is it an inventive narrative device or just a catchy visual gimmick aimed at the jaded eyeballs of the weaned-on-music-videos audience?

I wasn't completely sold on *The Tracey Fragments* as a story, but I loved the wit and inventiveness of the way it tells it. I think once you accept that the movie is really a creative interpretation of one fucked-up kid's subjective worldview, once you tune in to the film's self-aware humour, daring visual style and meticulous sound design—and once you get past your suspicion the movie has nothing to offer but teenage angst and superficial characterizations, you can really start

to appreciate what an approach McDonald has taken to this material.

Because event-wise *The Tracey Fragments* is mostly about an alienated adolescent riding the late-night buses of Winnipeg and encountering various kinds of trouble. When the disappearance of her young brother is compounded by her inability to understand her loveless parents, her hatred of her shitty peers, and her hopeless crush on the new cool kid in school, the screen is blown into dozens of tiny panes that throw vari-

secretly wishing that someone sympathetic would happen upon her (incidentally, it's not her hatchet-faced shrink played by McDonald rep player Julian Richings in trumpety Nancy Reagan drag).

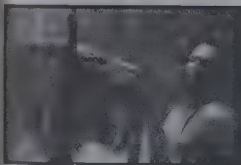
Too keep things from getting too maudlin or miserable, McDonald injects *The Tracey Fragments* with a judicious dose of rock n' roll, not just on the soundtrack (some of which is by Broken Social Scene) but in the kinetic, vibrant effects he achieves onscreen. Rather than just use his multiple frames to stand for Tracey's chaotic emotional state, the director coaxes a lot of moods out his central device, capturing some of the inad- vertent joy his heroine experiences in between the low points.

Page has been commended for bringing wisdom beyond her years to her screen work, but the strength of her lead performance here is how well she nails the character's petulance and immaturity while remaining watchable right through to the powerful closing shot. For my money, though, the closing shot comes a few minutes too soon, before the movie has finished reconciling all the images and ideas it's juggled so adeptly. But by no means is that a reason to miss such unexpected and original entertainment.

## IS IT AN INVENTIVE NARRATIVE DEVICE OR JUST A CATCHY VISUAL GIMMICK AIMED AT THE JADED EYBALLS OF THE WEANED-ON-MUSIC-VIDEOS AUDIENCE?

ous views of the same reality out of sync with each other, chasing digressions and fantasies that blot out the stark, squalid world going on before Tracey's perpetually excluded eyes. If her folks and the various dirtbags she crosses paths with seem a little one-dimensional, it's because we're taking her view of things and

# Unfrozen Caveman Loyalist



Eye Of The Tiger | Caveman Steven Strait finds himself a long way from Rock Vegas in *10,000 B.C.* PHOTO SUPPLIED

## OH, ROLAND EMMERICH... YOUR DOPEY PREHISTORIC EPIC *10,000 B.C.* IS AS IRRESISTIBLE AS A BLACK JELLYBEAN

### 10,000 B.C.

Directed by Roland Emmerich. Starring Steven Strait, Camilla Belle, Cliff Curtis. Now playing.

★★★★☆

As I start this review, I would just like to make a statement whose meaning will become clearer as you read on. Ready? Okay: I really like black jellybeans. Not a lot of people do. I pick them all out the first chance I get and then I eat them until my tongue feels raw. They've even made me a sick once or twice, but I always go back for a handful the next time.

Roland Emmerich is a lot like a black jellybean. Well, I guess it would be more accurate to say his movies

are like black jellybeans. More people hate them than don't. Some call his movies an acquired taste; others call them just plain crap. I've seen people get physically angry at the mention of *Independence Day*. Now, I happen to be a big fan of Emmerich's: *Stargate*, *Universal Soldier*, and *The Day After Tomorrow* are some of my favourites. I've spent many a night curled up to his movies, and not because I own them. I don't need to—there are TV "superstations" out there that show his movies in near constant rotation, so I know I'm not the only fan he has. His movies break box office records almost every time a new one's released.

Which begs the question: why would a director whose work is almost universally critically panned have such a loyal fanbase? Well, his films are guilty pleasures made specifically for geeky movie buffs like me, who just happen to have a soft spot for predictable, badly written, action-driven fluff.

And so it was in the beginning, well at least in *10,000 B.C.*

The plot here is pretty much what you'd expect. I'd call it a caveboy coming-of-age story. D'leh (Steven Strait) is a young mammoth hunter

trying to make a name for himself among his tribe. The mammoth are few and far between these days and the tribe's witch-woman predicts things are going to get a whole lot worse before they get any better. D'leh has big plans: he'll fulfill the prophecy (of course there's a prophecy) and kill the bull mammoth, proving that he's the chosen one (uh-huh, there's a chosen one too) and a worthy husband for the blue-eyed Eviolat (Camilla Belle).

But things take a turn for the worse as the tribe is raided by strange and foreign "demons" on horseback who take whomever they don't kill, including our caveboy's beloved. Luckily D'leh, along with a few others, escape the slavers. He vows to follow them to the ends of the earth until he finds his true love. D'leh's journey is perilous, but we watch the transformation from caveboy to caveman along the way. He faces mammoth stampedes, a vicious chickenosaurus attack, and tense encounters with neighbouring tribes that culminate in a showdown between our hairy heroes and the bizarre, pyramid-building strangers who are fulfilling a prophecy of their own.

Oh, Roland... you had me at mammoth stampede.

By the end of *10,000 B.C.*, I was kind of dizzy; my geeky synapses were firing all at once. I had a goofy grin plastered on my face and a near-

uncontrollable urge to start a standing ovation as the credits rolled. Make no mistake: this is a really terrible movie. And I loved every second of it... but then again, I really like black jellybeans.

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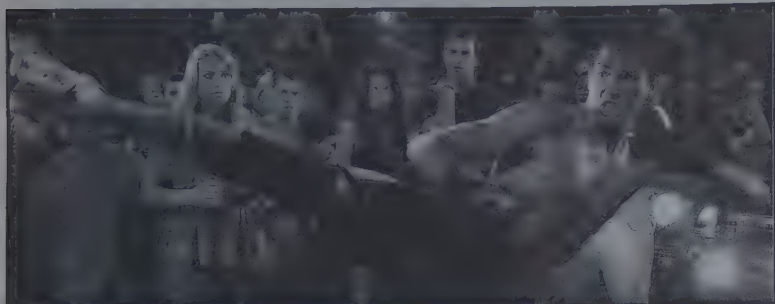
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MOVIE REVIEW • A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE • BY PAUL MATWYCHUK | 703 words

# Fist Times At Ridgemont High



**Afterschool Special** | Sean Faris throat-hocks a snotty classmate in *Never Back Down*. Boy, we've all been there, right? PHOTO SUPPLIED

## NEVER BACK DOWN SPEAKS TO ALL OUR HIGH SCHOOL MEMORIES OF TAKING PART IN BRUTAL ILLEGAL STREETFIGHTS

### NEVER BACK DOWN

Directed by Jeff Wadlow. Starring Djimon Hounsou, Sean Faris, Amber Heard. Opens Fri, Mar 14.

★☆☆☆

Watching *Never Back Down* made me very nostalgic for the days, not so long ago, when I was going to high school and got involved with an underground fighting ring.

Like *Never Back Down*'s hero Jake Tyler (Sean Faris), I too was an angry kid with father issues. Jake's dad was

an alcoholic who died in a drunken car wreck; my dad never forgave me for ditching the family business and going into film criticism. Yessiree, when my mom moved my brother and me across the country to Florida, I was like Jake and just wanted to lash out at the world.

Boy, I sure could identify with those scenes in *Never Back Down* where the stuck-up rich kids at Jake's new school make fun of his habit of dressing in flannel shirts despite the Florida sun—"Kurt Cobain," they call Jake, "Paul Bunyan," they called me. Either way, the girls would turn their heads and laugh, pile into their Hummers, and drive off with their smirking boyfriends. It's tough for a

new kid at high school! Good thing Jake and I both made friends with a less sexually attractive sidekick who could always make us laugh when we were feeling down.

I have to nitpick the accuracy of *Never Back Down* a little bit, though, in the scene where Jake attends a party at the home of Ryan, the evil rich kid who's the town's best mixed-martial-arts brawler. Oh sure, the sprawling Tony Montana mansion really brought me back. The movie gets the stuff about girls walking around in bikinis pretty much correct, and the stuff about the fighting matches taking place out back is dead-on too—like Ryan says in the movie, it was one long parade

of "girl on girl, black on brown, ex versus ex." The constant girl-girl kung fu streetfights were definitely my favourite back then. (Hey—I was in high school! Can you blame me?)

But the bit with the two half-naked girls making out in a bubble bath while everyone snaps pictures of them with their cameraphones? Whatever! Oh well... I guess when you're making a movie, you have to Hollywood everything up a little bit.

After seeing Ryan beat Jake up in front of all the guests, I sat there hoping that Jake would be as lucky as I was and find a mentor who could take his fighting technique to the next level. My teacher was a retired Israeli army commando who'd spent some time as a soldier of fortune in Southeast Asia and who taught me a potent mix of Krav Maga and Muay Thai kickboxing, with a little old-school bare-knuckle brawling thrown in for good measure. But Jake's trainer is pretty cool too—this tall, ripped Senegalese guy played by Djimon Hounsou.

And Jake gives Hounsou almost as many headaches as I gave Ari back in the day. Guys like Jake and me—we chafe under any kind of authority figure, and it takes us forever to realize that they've got our best interests

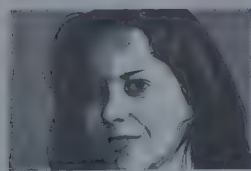
at heart. When we do, though, they take us on the training montage of our lives! Truth be told, I was kind of jealous that Kanye West's "Stronger" plays under Jake's montage when for some reason mine was set to some old Belle and Sebastian song.

Anyway, I was excited to learn from *Never Back Down* that they still run massive no-holds-barred streetfighter tournaments in Florida. The one Jake takes part in is called "The Beatdown," and even though mine was called "Punchapalooza," they're pretty much the same idea—you strip down to your waist, show the roaring crowd your rippling abs, and defeat as many colourful ethnic opponents as it takes until you face your nemesis while your gorgeous blonde girlfriend cries and begs you to end the fight after you get so much as one measly broken rib.

I don't want to say whether Jake wins or not—I'm not about to reveal any spoilers! But my big fight against my arch-nemesis ended exactly the same way, so I guess you can Google my name if you're curious. That's all part of my past, though. I've given up fighting for good, but sometimes when I type out a particularly enthusiastic movie review, I can still feel my knuckles sting a little.

TELEVISION • ENDINGS REVEALED! | 693 words

## Curses, Spoiled Again!



### TELEPROMPTER NICOLA SIMPSON KHILLAR THIS WEEK, NICOLA RAMBLES A LOT BEFORE COMING TO ZERO CONCLUSIONS. WHOOPS—I SPOILED IT!

The interweb is a double-edged sword for a Canadian TV critic. Yes, it's a vast repository of information both important and arcane. Thanks to the net, I can rewatch all of would-be American Idol Danny Noriega's painfully neo-New Wave performances on YouTube (which I won't), and make wallpaper with pictures of Orlando Bloom lookalike Luke Menard (which I might).

But for a Canadian *Project Runway* fan, the web is a treacherous place, full of vipers and potholes and pits with bamboo stakes. Even though there are five episodes left in Season 4 on Slice, the finale, which aired on

Bravo in the States last week, guaranteed headlines in all the entertainment mags I peruse online.

I should have known better. But asking an entertainment writer to avoid industry news and gossip is like asking a *Lost* fan not to go online after each episode. And now that PR has been to Bryant Park, it's time for a new season of *Top Chef* to start up on Bravo. Which means it's time to phone the Food Network here in Canada.

Me: Hi there, can you tell me when the new season of *Top Chef* will start on Food?

Publicist: Food Network Canada is not currently airing the new season of *Top Chef*.

Me: Yes, I know, it hasn't started yet. When will it start up?

Publicist: We will be airing it within the next few months but I am unable to confirm a date at this time.

Me: Anything you can tell me in advance? Any spoilers?

Publicist: We expect this to be the best season yet.

Me: You say that every season.

Publicist: Then it must be true. Tasty treats notwithstanding, the



**Project Spoiler** | Which one of these designers will win *Project Runway*? If you don't know already, we won't tell you. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRAVO

big question is: do spoilers ruin the TV viewing experience or enhance it? I turn to the people around me for their perspective.

Mr. Teleprompter: "Don't put me in your column."

Paul M., editor extraordinaire and admitted spoiler-whore: "Is this why the column is late?"

Michelle B., CBC Radio One producer fantastico: "Is this what you're talking about next week on *Edmonton AM*? Because it needs work."

Jason T., U of A student writing his Ph.D. dissertation on geek culture (edited for laypeople): "I can see how some people like spoilers."

Paul M.: "No, really, you're e-mailing it today, right?"

Random nameless guy on street: "What's a spoiler? By 'enhance,' do

you mean, like, a boob job? 'Cause I think everyone on *Big Brother* has to get that now before they get into the house."

Hmmm. So far the only thing I've spoiled is my mood. Maybe I need to ask more people. I know, I'll go online and ask around there.

LostBoy: "Why, what have you heard? WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD????"

iluvskully42: "Is this about the XF movie? Go M/S ship forever!"

gossipgurl: "u have tv in canada? don't the cables like freeze?"

Okay, the only result of my survey is a complete waste of my time. Maybe that's the answer: spoilers are a waste of time. That's valuable time I could be spending catching up on the Kurosawa retrospective on my PVR. That's time I could spend be-

ing the last film critic in the world to see *No Country for Old Men*.

I know that once I'm sitting in front of the TV and looking up Kiri Cameron on Wikipedia because that Anna Kournikova camera ad reminds me of her failed engagement to Pavel Bure, which reminds me of Valeri Bure, who married Candace Cameron, and by the way, what's Dave Coulier doing since *Skating With Celebrities* and I already forgot my original point. Ten minutes later, I'm watching Christmas Po on YouTube and already forgetting how I got there. (FYI: Kurt Brown, Brian Boitano-South Park.)

See the problem? The Internet is an evil, evil place for TV fans to congregate. At least those who hope to have a life outside the box. Good thing I'm not that kind of fan.

# BEYOND THE BLURBS • BLOGGERS HAVE THEIR SAY



Army of Darkness | Robert Downey Jr. is flanked by Jack Black and Ben Stiller in *Tropic Thunder*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

## THIS WEEK: ROBERT DOWNEY JR.'S UPCOMING BLACKFACE ROLE IN *TROPIC THUNDER*

Glenn Kenny, *In the Company of Glenn* | "Okay, we've also seen a white female American actor playing a male Chinese-Australian 'dwarf' (Linda Hunt, *The Year of Living Dangerously*), a black male actor playing various white, female, and Chinese characters (Eddie Murphy, *Coming to America*, *Norbit*); a German-Japanese-Venezuelan male actor playing a Kenyan-white male American presidential candidate (Fred Armisen on *Saturday Night Live*); various straight actors playing gay

roles and gay actors playing straight roles and gay male actors playing straight actors playing straight women and straight men and gay men and... what else?"

*marg.*, *Can't Hold My Tongue* | "How far we've progressed. Whites can now perform in blackface and black people are ridiculed before protesting for even thinking about having the gall to do so. But whites have always decided what was acceptable or offensive. That is why they essentially hate a person like Al Sharpton, who represents non-whites deciding for themselves what is or is not appropriate. It should also be noted

that Downey Jr. has another majority funded movie coming out this year: *Iron Man*. Just something to consider if anyone is thinking this represents some valley in his career to explain the choice. On the contrary, blackface is apparently the kind of choice made by white Hollywood actors at their peaks."

Paul Clark, *Screengrab* | "First off, according to *Entertainment Weekly*, Downey plays a very serious actor cast in the most expensive Vietnam War film ever. Problem is, his character was originally written as black. So he decides to dye his skin and play the role, um, authentically." Ben Stiller, who also wrote

and directed, has stated that Downey's character is skewering blinkered, insufferable actors rather than African-Americans. Yet that hasn't stopped some folks from invoking that dreaded 'B' word: blackface. Frankly, I don't see it. The purpose of blackface was to get cheap laughs by exaggerating the prevailing stereotypes of African-Americans. And I don't see Downey sneaking around a watermelon patch. Bamboozled-style. If Stiller and Downey maintain that the film isn't trying to lampoon African-Americans—which would be a stupid, career-killing idea in this day and age—I see no reason why we shouldn't take them at their word."

# Scotiabank Theatre Edmonton with IMAX®

## SHOWT MESS MARCH 13 - 19, 2008

GARNEAU		10,000 B.C.		FOOL'S GOLD		CLAREVIEW 10 CINEMAS		CINEMA CITY MOVIES 12	
8712-105 STREET • 433-0728		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:55, 4:55, 7:05, 9:15		Fri-Thurs 9:40, 11:00		4211 137TH AVENUE • 477-7600		130 AVENUE W. ST. JEFF • 477-9777	
JUNO		HORTON HEARS A WHO		HANNAH MONTANA & MILEY CYRUS: BEST OF BOTH WORLDS		THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES		PENELOPE	
Highly 7:00, 9:00, Sat & Sun matinees 2:00		Fri-Thurs 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:45, 11:00		Fri-Sat, Mon-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:40, 7:00, 9:10		Fri-Sat 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55, 12:40		Fri-Sat 1:30, 4:00, 6:50, 9:25, Sun 1:30, 4:00, 6:50, 9:25, 11:45	
Congo language, mature themes		LEBUC CINEMAS		JUNO		VANTAGE POINT		MEET THE SPARTANS	
10337 82 AVENUE • 433-0728		4702 50 St. SE • 706-7778		Fri-Sat 1:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:15, Sat 3:50, 6:45, 9:15		Fri-Thurs 7:30, 9:55, 12:15		Fri-Thurs 2:10, 4:45, 7:35, 9:50, Sat 2:10, 4:45, 7:35, 9:50	
FUNNY GAMES		WETASKIWIN CINEMA 4 PLEX		METROPOLITAN OPERA: PETER GRIMES		JUMPER		UNTRACEABLE	
Highly 7:00, 9:10, Sat & Sun matinees 2:00, Violence, disturbing content		3840 56th, West Edmonton • 353-9977		Sat 11:30		SEMI-PRO		MAD MONEY	
4 MONTHS 3 WEEKS AND 2 DAYS		NO SHOWTIMES AVAILABLE		NORTH EDMONTON		COLLEGE ROAD TRIP		CLOVERFIELD	
18A		NEW WEST MALL 8		4231-1370 AVENUE • 732-7273		Fri-Thurs 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 10:40		Fri-Sat 1:30, 4:00, 6:40, 9:10, Sun 1:30, 4:00, 6:40, 9:10	
PARKLAND		WEST EDMONTON HALL, PHASE II ENTRANCE • 444-1823		HORTON HEARS A WHO!		10,000 B.C.		THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP	
205 Main Street, Spadina Grove • 962-2332		BOX OFFICE OPENS NIGHTLY 6:15 • OPEN AIRLINES SAT/SUN 11:00		Fri-Thurs 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00		Fri-Thurs 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00		SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET	
HORTON HEARS A WHO		MAD MONEY		DOOMSDAY		DOOMSDAY		I AM LEGEND	
Highly 6:45, 9:00, Sat & Sun 11:00 matinee 1:00, 3:25, Tues 1:00		Fri 4:40, 7:30, 9:45, Sat/Sun 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 7:30, 9:45, Mon-Thurs 7:30, 9:45, 11:00		NEVER BACK DOWN		HORTON HEARS A WHO		THE GOLDEN COMPASS	
10A		CLOVERFIELD		COLLEGE ROAD TRIP		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10		ENCHANTED	
NEVER BACK DOWN		SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET		10,000 B.C.		HANNAH MONTANA & MILEY CYRUS: BEST OF BOTH WORLDS		BEE MOVIE	
Highly 6:50, 9:05, Sat & Sun 11:00 matinee 1:10, 3:20		Fri-Thurs 8:45, 11:00, Sat/Sun 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10		THE BANK JOY		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10		INTO THE WILD	
PG		P.S. I LOVE YOU		SEMI-PRO		VANTAGE POINT		GALAXY CINEMAS	
Highly 6:55, 8:55, Sat & Sun 11:00 matinee 12:45, 2:55		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10		THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL		COLLEGE ROAD TRIP		HORTON HEARS A WHO!	
G		ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS		THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES		SEMI-PRO		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10	
Highly 7:05, 9:15, Sat & Sun 11:00 matinee 1:05, 3:15		I AM LEGEND		10,000 B.C.		THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL		DOOMSDAY	
14A		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10		NEVER BACK DOWN		VANTAGE POINT		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10	
Highly 7:15, Sat & Sun 11:00 matinee 12:30, Congo language		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10		COLLEGE ROAD TRIP		JUMPER		THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES	
PG		THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES		10,000 B.C.		HANNAH MONTANA & MILEY CYRUS: BEST OF BOTH WORLDS		NEVER BACK DOWN	
Highly 7:00, Sat & Sun 11:00 matinee 12:55, 3:10		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10		THE BANK JOY		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10		CLOVERFIELD	
14A		VANTAGE POINT		SEMI-PRO		VANTAGE POINT		SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET	
Highly 7:10, Violence		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10		THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL		COLLEGE ROAD TRIP		I AM LEGEND	
PG		THE BUCKET LIST		10,000 B.C.		SEMI-PRO		THE GOLDEN COMPASS	
Highly 7:15, Sat & Sun 11:00 matinee 12:30, Congo language		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10		NEVER BACK DOWN		VANTAGE POINT		ENCHANTED	
PG		FOOL'S GOLD		STEP UP TO THE STREETS		JUMPER		BEE MOVIE	
Highly 7:25, Sat & Sun 11:00 matinee 12:45, Violence		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10		JUNO		HANNAH MONTANA & MILEY CYRUS: BEST OF BOTH WORLDS		INTO THE WILD	
PG		METRO CINEMA		VANTAGE POINT		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10		GALAXY CINEMAS	
8078-101A AVENUE (DOWNTOWN HALL, CINEMA THEATRE) • 425-9712		SOUTH EDMONTON		THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES		SEMI-PRO		HORTON HEARS A WHO!	
STC		1525 99 Street • 436-8585		HANNAH MONTANA & MILEY CYRUS: BEST OF BOTH WORLDS		VANTAGE POINT		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10	
AMAL		HORTON HEARS A WHO!		METROPOLITAN OPERA: PETER GRIMES		COLLEGE ROAD TRIP		DOOMSDAY	
Thurs 7:00		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10		Sat 11:30		SEMI-PRO		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10	
CONTINENTAL UN FILM SANS FUSIL		CITY CENTRE 9 CINEMAS		THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES		THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL		NEVER BACK DOWN	
Thurs 7:00, Sat 7:00		380 HOBSON PHASE II, 101 St. & 102 Ave. • 421-7070		HANNAH MONTANA & MILEY CYRUS: BEST OF BOTH WORLDS		VANTAGE POINT		CLOVERFIELD	
UP THE YAMGIZ		HORTON HEARS A WHO!		METROPOLITAN OPERA: PETER GRIMES		COLLEGE ROAD TRIP		SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET	
Fri 7:00, Sat 9:00		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10		Sat 11:30		SEMI-PRO		I AM LEGEND	
STC		10,000 B.C.		THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES		VANTAGE POINT		THE GOLDEN COMPASS	
Highly 7:10, Violence		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10		HANNAH MONTANA & MILEY CYRUS: BEST OF BOTH WORLDS		COLLEGE ROAD TRIP		ENCHANTED	
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STC		10,000 B.C.		THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES		SEMI-PRO		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10	
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STC		10,000 B.C.		THE SPIDERWICK CHRONICLES		SEMI-PRO		Fri-Thurs 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, Sun 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10	
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STC		10,00							

## MOVIES • OPENING THIS WEEK

## CANADA'S TOP TEN SHORT FILMS

A selection of last year's most acclaimed live-action and animated shorts by Canadian filmmakers, including the Oscar-nominated *Met the Walrus* and *Madame Tutti-Putti*. *Metro Cinema*: Sat, Mar 15 (8:30pm) and Mon, Mar 17 (9pm)

## CONTINENTAL, UN FILM SANS FUSIL

Réa Bossé, Marie-Ginette Guay, Fanny Mallette, and Gilbert Sicotte star in writer/director Stéphane Lafleur's rueful comedy about four slackers battling ennui in a Montreal suburb. In French with English subtitles. *Metro Cinema*: Thu, Mar 13 (9pm) and Mon, Mar 17 (7pm)

## DOOMSDAY

Rhona Mitra, Bob Hoskins, Alexander Siddig, and Adrian Lester star in *The Descent* writer/director Neil Marshall's sci-fi/horror/action flick about a team of scientists who must venture back into England after a 30-year total quarantine in hopes of locating the cure to a deadly virus.

## EASTERN PROMISES

Viggo Mortensen, Naomi Watts, Vincent Cassel, and Armin Mueller-Stahl star in David Cronenberg's 2007 thriller about a London midwife whose inquiries into the death of a young prostitute lead her into the shadowy underworld of the Russian mob. *Metro Cinema*: Sun, Mar 16 (4pm)

## FUNNY GAMES

Naomi Watts, Tim Roth, Michael Pitt, and Brady Corbet star in *Caché* writer/director Michael Haneke's remake of his own disturbing, deliberately alienating 1997 thriller about two young sociopaths who take a family hostage at their cottage and brutalize them for their own amusement.

HANNAH MONTANA/MILEY CYRUS:  
BEST OF BOTH WORLDS CONCERT TOUR

The teenybopper recording artist and TV star is featured in this 3-D concert film, made during her wildly successful 2007 American tour.

## A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

Viggo Mortensen, Maria Bello, Ed Harris, and William Hurt star in David Cronenberg's acclaimed 2005 thriller about an upstanding Midwestern family man whose dark criminal past is exposed after he kills two men during a hold-up attempt in his diner. *Metro Cinema*: Sun, Mar 16 (2pm)

## HORTON HEARS A WHO!

The voices of Jim Carrey, Steve Carell, Carol Burnett, Seth Rogen, and Amy Poehler are featured in this computer-animated adaptation of Dr. Seuss' beloved children's book about an elephant who discovers an entire community of humanoids living on a microscopic speck of dust.

## NEVER BACK DOWN

Djimon Hounsou, Sean Faris, and Cam Gigandet star in *Cry Wolf* director Jeff Wadlow's martial-arts drama about a rebellious high-school student who finds an outlet for his aggression when he joins an underground fight club.

A PROMISE TO THE DEAD: THE EXILE  
JOURNEY OF ARIEL DORFMAN

Director Peter Raymont's documentary depicts writer/left-wing activist Ariel Dorfman's recent trip to Chile—his first visit home since fleeing the country in the wake of the military coup by Augusto Pinochet. *Metro Cinema*: Sun, Mar 16 (7pm)

## A SUMMER PLACE

Dorothy McGuire, Sandra Dee, and Troy Donohue star in 3:10 to Yuma director Delmer Daves' 1959 sudser about an innkeeper's wife who rekindles an old love affair with a vacationing businessman at the same time that their teenaged children are embarking on a romance of their own. *Royal Alberta Museum*: Mon, Mar 17 (8pm)

## THE TRACEY FRAGMENTS

Ellen Page, Zie Souwand, and An Cohen star in *Hard Core Logo* director Bruce McDonald's chronologically scrambled tale of a 15-year-old girl riding the bus and searching a bleak cityscape for her baby brother, who believes he is a dog. Based on the novel by Maureen

Medved. *Metro Cinema*: Fri, Mar 14 (9pm) and Sat, Mar 15 (7pm)

## UP THE YANGTZE

Yung Chang's acclaimed documentary profile of the people who live along China's Yangtze River, many of whom will be uprooted as a result of the enormous Three Gorges Dam megaproject. In Mandarin with English subtitles. *Metro Cinema*: Fri, Mar 14 (7pm) and Sun, Mar 16 (9pm)

## MOVIES • ALSO PLAYING

## 4 MONTHS, 3 WEEKS AND 2 DAYS

You know what Roger Ebert once said about how no great movie is ever depressing? Keep that in mind as you consider seeing this admittedly bleak-sounding drama about the efforts of two women in 1980s Romania to secure an illegal abortion. It's gripping, disturbing, shattering... and pretty much a masterpiece.

★★★★★

## THE BANK JOB

Everyone loves Jason Statham, but everyone also knows he doesn't always star in the greatest movies. But this twisty heist picture, rich in nasty, gritty 1970s atmosphere, is a happy exception.

★★★★☆

## BEKIND REWIND

Director Michel Gondry's flair for spinning magic out of ramshackle production design and obsolete filmmaking techniques finds a perfect outlet in this agreeably sloppy comedy whose unbridled affection for Fats Waller, DIY creativity, and the golden age of VHS is surprisingly contagious.

★★★★☆

## FOOL'S GOLD

Not even Donald Sutherland in an ascot, not even the presence of the Sexy Beast himself, Ray Winstone, can redeem this treasure-hunting romantic caper starring Kate Hudson and Matthew McConaughey. It's drenched in sunshine, yet somehow still dreary.

☆☆☆☆☆

ONLINE MOVIES • ONE SERIOUS ROAD TRIP (457 words)

## Unembedded Journalism



FREEDOM OF CHOICE: G.H. LEWMER

**TAKE A DANGEROUS JOURNEY INTO WARTORN CENTRAL ASIA—VIA LAPTOP!—WITH THE SMELL OF PARADISE**

The problem with history is that it keeps repeating itself. The problem with military history is that it keeps repeating itself too. Unfortunately, military history has a nasty habit of destroying governments and peoples (but not the profits) all in pursuit of a "right cause." But what is a "right cause"? And how can we know what "right cause" means when we know so little about what a "right conflict" is?

*The Smell of Paradise* is an engaging and chilling hybrid of documentary and road movie that travels all the way from 1995 Chechnya to 2004 Naziristan. During stops in Chechnya, Dagestan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Qatar, and Afghanistan, directors Mariusz Pilis and Marcin Mamon interview many of the key participants in the armed conflicts in these regions and allow them the rare opportunity to speak in their own voices regarding the issues that have placed them in the position they happen to occupy. If you live in North America, chances are you'll be surprised by many of their responses.

Individuals such as former Chech-

en president Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev and self-proclaimed freedom fighter Shamil Basaev and Hamzat Gelaev are among the figures who get in front of Pilis and Mamon's camera. What quickly becomes evident in the course of these interviews is how convinced each of these individuals are in the justness of their cause, how predominant the male-dominated "creation through destruction" mindset is everywhere the filmmakers travel. (There's not a single female to be found in the entire film.) Grimly, and seemingly inevitably, every interviewee will be murdered before the film is completed.

Few people in their right mind would make the dangerous journey that the filmmakers embark upon here, or be resourceful enough to break through the uneasy silence

**WATCH THE SMELL OF PARADISE ONLINE AT VIDEO.GOOGLE.CA.**

that greets them at each destination. With "embedded journalism" the norm in all mainstream coverage of this region of the world, it's astonishing to travel the road between Kabul and Kandahar in the back of a flatbed truck or observe the participants at a rebel camp in the Caucasus Mountains or stand in the middle of a crowded bazaar in Herat without the veil of security that broadcast media brings. *The Smell of Paradise* is a rare example of balanced and illuminating reporting about conflict that rarely receive it.

Some final words about the situation in these villages that have spent thousands of years living under various occupying forces, you can't be struck by the overwhelming indifference and disdain to time and truth as the inhabitants stare directly into the camera. With everyone in the film constantly speaking the truth, it becomes easy to understand why one becomes indifferent to especially if it means death and destruction stretching on for lifetimes.

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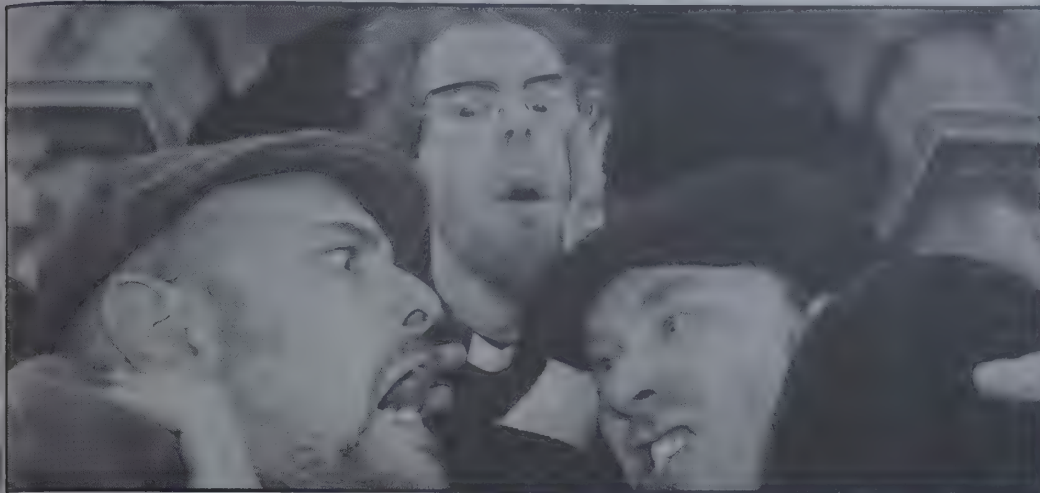
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**“I WAS IN ICU FOR ABOUT A WEEK, OF WHICH I REMEMBER VERY LITTLE—THOUGH I DO REMEMBER THINKING, ‘THIS IS GOING TO MAKE A GREAT FRINGE PLAY ONE DAY.’**

—JULIEN ARNOLD, ON RECOVERING FROM HIS ONSTAGE HEART ATTACK

THEATRE PREVIEW • THANK GOD HE'S BACK • BY SCOTT LINGLEY 1752 words

# Irish Heartbeat



When Irish Guys Are Riling | James Hamilton, Chris Bullough, and Collin Doyle get into a scuffle in *The Lonesome West*. PHOTO BY JULIEN ARNOLD

## NEWLY RECOVERED FROM A NEAR-DEATH SCARE, JULIEN ARNOLD MERRILY JOURNEYS INTO *THE LONESOME WEST*

### THE LONESOME WEST

Directed by Julien Arnold. Written by Martin McDonagh. Starring Chris Bullough, Collin Doyle, Clarice Eckford, James Hamilton. To Mar 23. The Roxy (10708–124 St.) Tickets available at the Roxy box office (453-2440).

For an actor to say that theatre saved his life might sound pretentious, but Julien Arnold's claim is actually legitimate. The local actor/director was appearing in a performance of *Noises Off* at the Citadel last November when he started to feel more than a little poorly.

"We were about halfway through," he recalls, "and I started to feel what they describe as 'the elephant sitting on your chest,' this strange feel-

ing of pressure on your breastbone, and I started sweating and getting nauseous, short of breath. The interesting part was that I was playing a character like that. It was a farce and my character was supposed to be fainting and nauseous and dizzy, so it was kind of ironic."

This was something much more than a case of identifying too closely with his character. Ever the trouper, Arnold refused to let his mysterious affliction stop the show, even though his situation proved to be dire.

"I'd had a heart attack in front of 700 paying audience members," Arnold says. "I didn't know what it was and I thought, 'I can't let people down just because I'm a little under the weather.' And who knows? Maybe that saved my life, because it was only the second preview so the adrenalin was still pumping pretty

hard... I was in ICU for about a week, of which I remember very little—though I do remember thinking, 'This is going to make a great Fringe play one day.'"

Work might have been foremost in his mind as he recuperated, but it would be two months before the actor was physically up to the rigours of the stage. Now that he's feeling better, Arnold is launching his professional directing career and his new company, The Atlas Theatre Co-op, with *The Lonesome West*—a play Arnold just happened to have directed while doing his M.F.A. at the U of A a couple of years ago.

"The thing about doing it at the university," he says, "is that you rehearse it like a regular play. It's fully produced, then you only get to run for three days. You put all that work into it, but it's more of an exercise

than an actual show. So I figured if we could cobble together some of the same actors, we could probably put this show on somewhere and it won't be like doing a show from scratch."

*The Lonesome West* is the third and final of Martin McDonagh's Connemara plays, which use the same remote, depressed region of western Ireland as the backdrop for their savagely humorous depictions of small-town malaise and extreme familial strife. This visit to Connemara focuses on two brothers whose lifelong antagonism is compounded by their late father's decision to leave everything to the elder son.

Those who saw the recent local productions of the other Connemara plays, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* and *A Skull in Connemara* (in which Arnold performed), probably still bear scars from McDonagh's

dark, downbeat brand of comedy, but Arnold says *The Lonesome West* isn't just more of the same. "There isn't actually any bloodshed. There's a certain amount of violence, but it mostly happens to inanimate objects, and the characters seem a little more sympathetic. They're fairly despicable, the brothers, but you end up really rooting for them. The playwright gives them a moral dilemma toward the end of the play, and they're really doing their best to be good people."

According to plan, Arnold conscripted actors Collin Doyle and James Hamilton to reprise their roles as the brothers, while Chris Bullough and Clarice Eckford are the newcomers to the cast. Arnold says the combination of old and new elements in this production take some of the guesswork out of deciding whether it's going to work in front of a crowd.

"There's always this funny thing that happens when you rehearse a comedy for the first few days: everyone laughs and laughs, then after a week or so you start finding the jokes really lame and you start to worry that maybe the play isn't funny. But usually what happens is the audience does find it funny. In this case, we don't have so much of that looming dread, so we can delve into the characters and the subtleties of the play a little more."

Following the maiden voyage of Atlas Theatre, Arnold will warm up for the Shakespeare in the Park season by co-directing a fundraising production of *Arsenic and Old Lace* starring a cast of lawyers and judges. And later in the summer he'll reunite with Teatro la Quindicina for a Fringe show, the nature of which is TBA.



Real Enough To Touch! | This 3D photo by Fish Griwkowsky would probably look more spectacular if it weren't reproduced on newspaper. And if you were wearing glasses. PHOTO BY FISH GRIWKOWSKY

## ARTS NEWS • NOTABLE HAPPENINGS FROM THE STAGE TO THE GALLERY

### INHOUSE NEPOTISM

#### Comin' At Ya!

SEE readers will of course be familiar with Fish Griwkowsky, whose prose and drawings regularly grace these pages. But after years of toiling in two dimensions, Griwkowsky has taken his art into the world of 3D. His eye-popping forays into 3D imagery will share the walls of The ARTery on Jasper Ave with new drawings by Tim Rechner, Edmonton's undisputed master of the Twomblyesque scribble. The show, dubbed *The Experiment*, runs until April 26, but the opening reception—during which the two artists' mountain-man beards will battle for supremacy—happens March 14 from 7–11 p.m.

### STAGED READING

#### Johnson's Journey

Yvonne Johnson has told her unhappy story of abuse, drug use, and murder in her memoir *Stolen Life: The Journey of a Cree Woman*, co-authored with Edmonton writer Rudy Wiebe. Now local theatre troupe Old Earth Productions is working on a new collective entitled *Maskwa*, which draws on company member Christopher Gignard's recent visits with Johnson at the Edmonton Institute for Women, but also deals more widely with the impact of the Canadian penal system upon Aboriginal mother/daughter relationships. A staged reading of the play-in-progress happens March 16 at 6 p.m. at the Winsper Centre.

### THESE TEENAGERS TODAY!

#### Gap Kids

The Art Gallery of Alberta's panel discussion *Mind the Gap* is billed as "a think tank on the culture of youth," and you can't say they're not being ambitious: the topics slated for discussion include gangs, drugs, sex, gender, videogames, fashion, girl-bulies, comic, and new music. And they're going to cover it all in two hours! The panelists, who include sociologist Joanne Minaker, iHuman's Duane Linklater, CJSR's Page Cassidy, and "trans-grit!" musician Josephine Cross, had better make their points quickly. The event is free and open to the public; it takes place at the AGA on March 15 from 2–4 p.m.

# Frozen Out By December

**THE DECEMBER MAN IS AN UNFLINCHING AND BRILLIANT PLAY, BUT THE CITADEL'S PRODUCTION LEAVES SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED**

## THE DECEMBER MAN

Directed by Micheline Chevrier. Written by Colleen Murphy. Starring Brian Dooley, Jeff Irving, Nicola Lipman. To Mar 23 (7:30pm). Rice Theatre, The Citadel. Tickets available at the Citadel box office (425-1820/citadeltheatre.com)

*The December Man* opens with its most gut-wrenching scene—and for a play that deals with the guilt, shame, and personal tragedy that followed in the wake of the one of the worst acts of random violence in Canadian history (the murder of 14 women at Montreal's École Polytechnique by a disturbed young misogynist, Marc Lépine), that's pretty damn gut-wrenching.

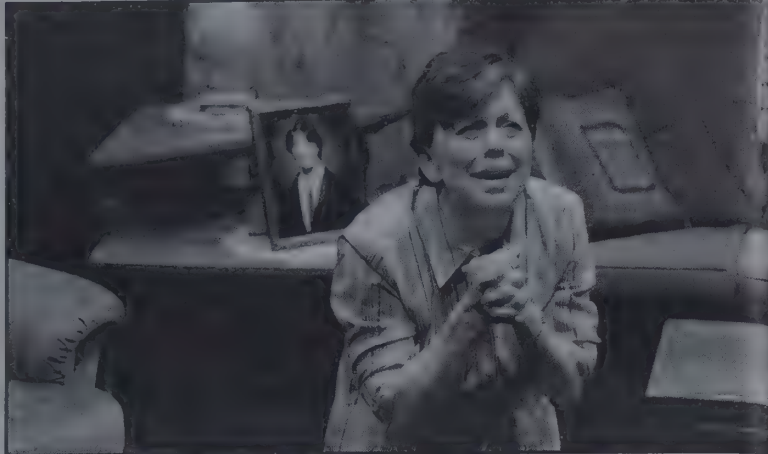
The scene is the suicide of the play's principal characters, Benoit (Brian Dooley) and his wife Kathleen (Nicola Lipman), who are the parents of Jean (Jeff Irving), a 22-year-old man who survived the attack, only to later commit suicide himself. It's all the more painful because this is essentially a true story—a number of survivors of the massacre have, in the years since, committed suicide.

Told in reverse chronological order,

*The December Man* only obliquely references the massacre in its first few scenes. We begin with Benoit and Kathleen's death, move backward to Jean's, and then finally backward to the day of the massacre itself. Yes, it's grim—though playwright Colleen Murphy's reverse foreshadowing provides a few moments of (very) black humour.

Murphy's backwards storytelling is an effective way to approach her story and characters—by eliminating any suspense as to how things end (or begin, for that matter), we can focus more wholly on why these three people come to the end they do. And rather than focus on Lépine's misogyny, Murphy tells a story that's less concerned with gender politics than with the way tragedy reverberates through the lives of those touched by it, both directly and indirectly. Indeed, the only gender issue touched on at all is Jean's guilt at being unable to protect the women he went to school with. He begins to practice karate obsessively, to the detriment of his schoolwork and personal life, preparing for some imagined chance to redeem himself.

It's also a play, to some degree, about class struggle—the family is resolutely lower middle-class, and Kathleen is offended that the murderer Lépine is buried in Montreal's



**The Unreported Victim** | Nicola Lipman is a mother whose son only appears to survive the "Montreal massacre" in *The December Man*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

prestigious Côte des Neiges cemetery, while her son lies in a relative pauper's grave.

But despite all the richness in Murphy's Governor General's Award-winning text, and the beautiful, elegant set design, and the subject matter itself, something feels a little flat. At first I thought it was something as simple as opening-night jitters, but the play has been performed as recently as last spring by the same cast—with the exception of Irving,

which may be a clue. His is the weakest performance of the bunch. He doesn't seem to really inhabit his tortured, guilt-wracked character. He goes through the motions, being sullen, prone to anger, depression, and nightmares, but the character never really comes alive.

But the blame can't be laid exclusively at Irving's feet—there's a lack of chemistry in general. Though there are moments when the sheer excellence of the text is compelling

enough all by itself, the interplay between the actors remains in some way unconvincing, unable to give this powerful, undoubtedly challenging script the reading it deserves. The result is a laudable but slightly academic exercise in tragedy, one that left me feeling more numbed than moved, more helpless than enraged.

Though give the subject at hand, maybe that's a perfectly reasonable response as well.

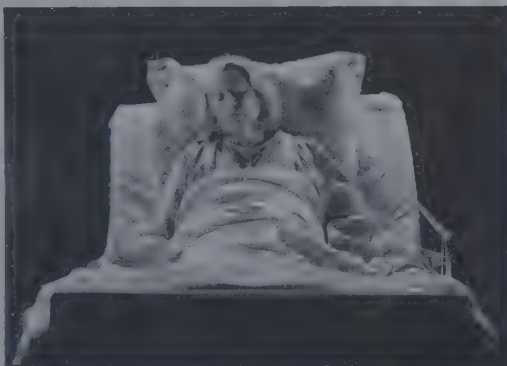
# I Forgot How Much I Love You

**HALF LIFE'S CAROLYN HETHERINGTON SAYS THE LOSS OF MEMORY DOESN'T MEAN THE END OF DESIRE**

## HALF LIFE

Directed by Daniel Brooks. Written by John Mighton. Starring Eric Pless, Carolyn Hetherington, Richard Clarkin, Laura De Carter. To Mar 30. Inceptor Theatre, The Citadel. Tickets available at the Citadel box office (425-1820/citadeltheatre.com).

There's a second, secret play going on inside *Half Life*—or at least there is when Carolyn Hetherington is performing it. The play that everyone sees, by Canadian mathematician-turned-playwright John Mighton, is set in a senior care facility for veterans and their families and concerns the budding romance between two residents, Patrick and Clara, and the mystery of whether they actually met 60 years earlier or if this brief encounter is a fiction they've created for themselves. We also meet their two children, Anna and Donald, who are reaching out to each other as well—but not as successfully as their parents. And there are various nurses, priests, and crotchety residents on hand to provide some co-



**The Spirit of 76** | Septuagenarian actress Carolyn Hetherington lands the role of a lifetime in *Half Life*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

lour.

The secret play, on the other hand, is one Hetherington invented, and which no one ever gets to see. It takes place entirely within Clara's head—it's the story of who Clara used to be before Alzheimer's began to eat away at her mind and her memory, and it's the story of what Clara's strange, seemingly random utterances (in one short speech, she begins talking about sleep, then pioneers, then her favourite aunt, who was so good at

singing) mean to her.

"My father had Alzheimer's," says Hetherington, "and I have to think that even in this diminishing mind, no matter what you say, there are reasons to say it. So I've had to find those connections—not just so the lines make sense to me, but so Clara can make sense to herself. Clara doesn't realize that she's saying these peculiar things that no one else is going to understand. But she has to know, I think.

"I'm also fortunate that I'm met people who knew John Mighton's mother [upon whom he based the character of Clara], who all told me what a beautiful human being she was, and so absolutely loved and respected by everyone. It's a big responsibility to play someone's mother! But—and I hope this doesn't sound pompous—it's so beautifully written and it's so close to my own life experience, that the core of Clara, the essence of her didn't seem so faraway for me. And I think John has been pleased with the results."

Hetherington must be pretty content with *Half Life*'s success as well—it's not every day that a 76-year-old actress gets to play one of the central roles in an international theatrical hit. (The London-born actress, who last appeared in Edmonton as the monstrous mother in Martin McDonagh's *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, has already performed *Half Life* to great success in, among other cities, Toronto—twice!—Quebec City, Montreal, Glasgow, Melbourne, and Vancouver, some 240 performances in all. Even Alan Rickman couldn't get a ticket, and had to go on the waiting list.)

"There are not a lot of roles being written [for women my age]," Hetherington agrees, "and often these characters in their 70s and 80s can be so stereotypical. But interestingly there is a trend of middle-aged male playwrights writing about their parents, and doing so in such a human way." She laughs. "I hope for my sake that it's a trend that continues!"

There's very little of the imperious *grande dame* about Hetherington as she talks about *Half Life*—or what she calls "drum and strang." As she points out, she largely gave up acting during what might ordinarily might be considered her prime acting years in order to raise a family, and only returned to the profession about 25 years ago, starting at the bottom and thanking her good fortune for any decent role that came her way.

"But I look at my family," she says, "and between us we have seven children and 12 grandchildren. And I am so grateful I didn't go padding around as an actor in those days and gave up having a family. This is the best of both worlds.... As in the play, it's about the possibility of finding a full life rather than merely a half life."

THEATRE PREVIEW • **BATHING BEAUTIES** • BY MATTHEW HALLIDAY 167 words

# Wetness For The Prosecution

**FRINGE HIT THE DROWNING GIRLS CLIMBS BACK INTO THE BATHTUB FOR A DELUXE NEW REVIVAL AT CATALYST**

## THE DROWNING GIRLS

Directed by Charlie Tomlinson. Written by Beth Graham, Charlie Tomlinson, and Daniela Vaskalic. Starring Beth Graham, Matuscha Gergis, Vanessa Sabourin. To Mar 23. Catalyst Theatre (8529-103 St). Info: 433-2440.

The *Drowning Girls* came about sort of backwards. Playwrights Beth Graham, Daniela Vaskalic, and Charlie Tomlinson didn't start by deciding to base a play on the notorious Scotland Yard case of George Joseph Smith—who, between 1912 and 1917, drowned three of his wives in their baths to collect insurance money. Instead, they started with the image of a woman drowning in a bathtub, and looked for a story to match.

"We started to look at drowning and people drowning in their baths," says Vaskalic, "and we came upon this case, which just ended up being perfect for what we wanted to do."

The murders have already served as fodder for several other plays, as

well as a British TV movie and an episode of Orson Welles' 1950s true-crime radio serial *The Black Museum*. But the case is usually treated as a murder mystery or a lurid thriller, whereas Graham, Vaskalic, and Tomlinson found their attention piqued not by the case itself so much as the women behind the names. What would possess these women to marry Smith, an unpleasant man with a long string of divorces and a criminal past? (He spent two years in prison after convincing one of his first wives to commit petty theft for him.)

"How could you not see it?" asks Graham. "And then you look back at your own past relationships and you're like, 'Oh my God, how could I not have seen that?' I mean, this is to an extreme, but we thought it was a universal thing... The women speak to the audience and the audience is different things for the women. At times the audience may judge the women. When I read the case, I judged them."

Of course, blind love doesn't explain how Smith was able to con so

many women, and so fast—he met, married, and killed his last wife in only two weeks' time.

"These three women at the time would have been old maids by our standards," says Vaskalic. "They had zero power and influence in the world as single women... The women are more victims of their time than they are anything else. I don't even want to use the word 'victims'. It's more about what they were in life that led them to being drowned in their tubs."

Since so little is known about the women Smith killed, the characters in the play are conjecture based on little more than their ages and a few scanty biographical details. "A lot of it was left up to the imagination, for sure," Graham says, "and we certainly took liberties with them, so hopefully they won't mind. Hopefully I won't be in the bathtub one day and the ghost of Alice Burnham will come up and get me."

The *Drowning Girls* is a revival on the Edmonton stage. It was a originally staged at the Fringe in 1999, put together in a short span of time with



**Super Soakers** | Beth Graham, Vanessa Sabourin, and Matuscha Gergis get drippy in *The Drowning Girls*. PHOTO BY TRULIE LEE

minimal resources. But when it was staged last month in Calgary as part of the Enbridge PlayRites Festival at Alberta Theatre Projects, the playwrights at last had the resources to mount it the way they'd always envisioned. The script has been lengthened, a third female character (who previously was only referenced by the other two) has been added, and designers Bretta Gerecke, Narda McCarroll, and Peter Moller were brought in to give it a visual facelift. Especially important was the treat-

ment of the water itself, which the actors spend most of the play submerged in, and which both Graham and Vaskalic call a "fourth character"—not that it doesn't present challenges of its own to work with.

"It just opens up different opportunities," says Graham, "because you've got this thing you can splash and throw and sink into. It's great—though it can be a little chilly at times. That's not something I've ever before experienced as an actor."

THEATRE PREVIEW • **COFFINS AGAIN?** • BY PAUL MATWYCHUK 168 words

# Wayne Paquette: Funeral Director

**EVEN HELMING ONE-THIRD OF THE BLACKLY FUNNY THREE VIEWINGS IS A TREMENDOUS UNDERTAKING**

## THREE VIEWINGS

Directed by John Hudson and Wayne Paquette. Written by Jeffrey Hatcher. Starring Patricia Bell-Casey, Dave Clarke, Davina Stewart. To Mar 30. Marsona Theatre (10329-83 Ave). Tickets available through Shadow Theatre (434-5564), Accent European Lounge (431-0719) or TIX on the Square (420-1751/tixonthesquare.ca).



**Back in Black** | Patricia Bell-Casey, Dave Clarke, and Davina Stewart greet the mourning in *Three Viewings*. PHOTO SUPPLIED

Whether he's working as a director or a stage manager, Wayne Paquette is famous in Edmonton theatrical circles for his superhuman level of preparation. Hire Paquette to direct a period piece, and you can be assured he'll arrive at the first rehearsal with small mountain of books and Xeroxed documents raided from the local library. Work with him on a Fringe show like *Afterplay*, the Chekhovian two-hander by Brian Friel that was Paquette's first-ever directorial effort, and he'll have thoroughly researched not just the two Chekhov plays that inspired Friel's script, but Chekhov's biography and life in turn-of-the-century Russia as well.

But what does Paquette do with a script like Jeffrey Hatcher's *Three Viewings*, which he's co-directing with Shadow Theatre artistic director John Hudson? The play couldn't be simpler: three loosely intersect-

ing monologues set at a Midwestern funeral home. No period trappings here, and a setting—Steubenville, Ohio—that, aside from being Dean Martin's birthplace, doesn't exactly seem brimming with the kind of rich sociological detail that would set a director's imagination on fire.

"Well," Paquette says, "we did do a certain amount of research into the whole North American funeral process, the history of how we celebrate a person's spirit by burying their body. I was less interested in learning about actual funeral homes than in the idea of how we celebrate the dead and how a community says goodbye to the dead. And we actually did do some research into Steubenville as well. It turns out that the place actually used to be incredibly corrupt!"

Really? Steubenville was a hotbed of crime? "Oh yeah! One of the monologues in the play touches on it a little," Pa-

quette says, referring to the final segment, "Thirteen Things About Ed Carpolotti," in which a widow discovers her late husband has gotten her deeply in debt to the local mob.

"When I first read that monologue, I have to admit, the whole concept of there being this gang in this small town seemed a bit schlocky to me. But I started doing a little research and found out that oh my God, this is just the tip of the iceberg!"

"But what's also interesting," Paquette continues, "is that in the period where Hatcher set the play, Steubenville was sort of a dying community. Pittsburgh was beginning to boom and the big industries were on their way out. So I think that just knowing that the town itself was starting to die gives the story this added texture—death is enveloping the entire community, not just the little world of the funeral home."

Paquette is handling the first segment of the show, a poignant Edgar Allan Poe variation called "Tell-Tale," in which Dave Clarke plays Emil, a lonely middle-aged funeral director who can't stop thinking about how he let a promising chance at love slip through his fingers. "He's a man who doesn't get noticed," Paquette says. "He's never even referred to by his actual name anywhere in the play—he's always called something else: it's always 'Mr. Funeral' or something. So this monologue becomes his one

"I think you ultimately come away with a bigger sense of what funerals are about," he says. "The people who've died all die with secrets that they wish could have been buried with them. And then the living have to decide whether to reveal those secrets or not speak about them. It's about who's left behind to carry on their legacy."

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# EXHIBITS

**ALLIED ARTS COUNCIL** 435 KING ST., SPRUCE GROVE, 962-0664 Until Mar 29 "The Midas Touch" by feature artist Julie Kaldenhoven. Opening reception MAR 15, 1-4 pm. Info: [www.alliedarts.org](http://www.alliedarts.org)

**ALBERTA CRAFT COUNCIL** 10186-106 ST., 544-661 EXT. 222 Until APR 12 "The Future is Later" by Bee Kingdom, Phillip Bandura, Ryan Marsh Fairweather, and Tim Bellevue. Until APR 19 "Contained: Protected or Prison?" various artists. "Nimma" celebration of aboriginal women's fine craft. Info: [www.albertacraft.ca](http://www.albertacraft.ca)

**AGNES BUGERA GALLERY** 12310 JASPER AVE. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm

**THE ARTERY** 9525 JASPER AVE. Hours: Tue-Sat 10 am-5 pm, by appointment. Info: [theartery.ca](http://theartery.ca)

**ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA** ENTERPRISE SQUARE, #100, 10230 JASPER AVE., 422-6223 Until MAR 24 "Generation," nine artists explore the images, ideals, and anxieties of North American youth. "Small," artistic responses to perceptions of balance, proportion, and scale. "Window Dressing: Shane Krepakovich," the history and politics of department store displays using the 102 St. windows of the former Bay store. Until MAY 4 "Seeing Through Modernism: Edmonton 1970-1985" over 30 modernist artists examine the rise of modernism in Edmonton, and the sites of critique and opposition which developed during the 1970s and '80s. "Awakening: The Art of iHuman," works by youth in the iHuman Youth Society program. Hours: Tue-Sat 10:30 am-5 pm, Thu-Sat 4-8 pm free admission. Sat & Sun 11 am-5 pm. Info: [www.artgalleryalberta.com](http://www.artgalleryalberta.com)

**ARTS HUB STUDIO GALLERY** 3RD FL., 1027-106 ST., 439-9532 Until MAR 13 "Love is Simple" by Kat Veda. "Eat Mine Raw" by Shelley Rothernberger, new works by ArtHub Residents. Hours: Tue-Sat 5-8 pm, by appointment. Info: [www.artshub.ca](http://www.artshub.ca)

**BEARCLAW GALLERY** 10403-124 ST., 482-1204 Info: [bearclawgallery.com](http://bearclawgallery.com)

**BLUE CURVE GALLERY** GLENROSE REHABILITATION HOSPITAL, 10230-116 AVE. Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am-2 pm  
**BRUCE PEEI SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY** RUTHERFORD SOUTH, U of A Until APR 30 "Mappae Mundi" selections from the U of A's maps and special collections, focusing on the study of the cultures of Medieval and early modern Europe. Curated by Michael Fox and Stephen R. Reimer. Free Admission.

**THE CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEE HOUSE** 9351-118 AVE. 471-1580 Info: [www.thecarrot.ca](http://www.thecarrot.ca)

**CENTRE D'ARTS VISUELS DE L'ALBERTA** 9103-95 AVE., 461-3427 MAR 14-APR 2 "Mei-Melo" by artists: Elaine Berglund, Paul Labrie, Gilberte Gagne, Maria Cieszevska and Milos Hajek. Info: 461-3427

**COLLECTIVE CONTEMPORARY ART** 6507-112 AVE., 491-0002 Info: [www.collective.ca](http://www.collective.ca)

**CHRISTL BERGSTROM'S RED GALLERY** 9627-82 AVE., 429-8210 Hours: Mon-Fri 11 am-5 pm

**DESIGN INTERCHANGE ENTERPRISE SQUARE, 10230 JASPER AVE.** Until MAY 15 "Design Works," innovative works by U of A Design staff and students.

**DOUGLAS UDELL GALLERY** 10332-124 ST., 488-4445 MAR 15-29 "Gifts for the Grandchildren" by Alan Reynolds. Opening Reception MAR 15, 2-4 pm. Hours: Tue-Fri 9:30 am-5:30 pm. Info: [douglasudellgallery.com](http://douglasudellgallery.com)

**ELECTRUM DESIGN STUDIO** 12419 STONY PLAIN RD., 482-1402 Info: [www.waynemackenziegoldsmith.com](http://www.waynemackenziegoldsmith.com)

**EXTENSION CENTRE GALLERY MAIN** FLOOR ATRIUM, ENTERPRISE SQUARE, 10230 JASPER AVE. Hours: Daily 7 am-11 pm. Info: [www.extensionvalberta.ca](http://www.extensionvalberta.ca)

**FAB GALLERY** 1-1 FINE ARTS BUILDING, U OF A CAMPUS UNTIL MAR 22 "This Wild Spring: Women in the Rocky Mountains of Canada" and "Hiding in Plain Sight" by Gillian Willans. Hours: Tues-Fri 10 am-5 pm, Sat 2-5 pm

**FRINGE GALLERY** 10516 WHYTE AVE., 432-0240 Until MAR 29 "Elaeusi" by George Botchett, Margaret Braun, E. Ross Bradley, Vern Busby, Edmund Hakoson, Eileen Hedler, Keith Turnbull, and Raymond Theriault. Info: [www.fringepoint.ca](http://www.fringepoint.ca)

**FRONT GALLERY** 12312 JASPER AVE., 488-2952

**GALLERY AT MILNER STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY, 87 CHURCHILL SQUARE** Until MAR 30 "Inside Out," presented by the Edmonton Sculptors' Association.

**HARICOURT HOUSE GALLERY** 3RD FL., 10215-112 ST., 426-4180 Until APR 5 "Business as Usual" by Lynn Richardson and "Unpacked" by Jennifer Pickering. Info: [www.haricourthouse.ab.ca](http://www.haricourthouse.ab.ca)

**JEFF ALLEN GALLERY** STRATHCONA SENIORS CENTRE, 10831 UNIVERSITY AVE., 433-5807 Until MAR 27 "Meadowlark Painters," Louise Rau, Ruth Harris, Esther Kozol, and Dorothy Mitchell exhibit landscapes, flora, and portraits in watercolour and oils. Hours: Mon-Thu, 9 am-4 pm  
**JOHNSON GALLERY** 771-85 ST., 465-6171 Edmonton Oil Painters, artists working in-studio throughout the season. Artists featured include Susan Abma, Susan Box, Shari

Honey, David Brooks, Margaret Klapostein, Tracy Mardon, Anne McCormick, and Cindy Revell. Info: [susanabma.com](http://susanabma.com)  
**LANDO GALLERY** 11330-105 AVE., 990-1161 Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat 10 am-4:30 pm. Info: [www.landogallery.com](http://www.landogallery.com)

**LATITUDE 53** 10248-106 ST., 432-5553 Hours: Tue-Fri 10 am-6 pm, Sat 12-5 pm. Info: [www.latitude53.org](http://www.latitude53.org)

**LOFT GALLERY** J. OTTAWELL CENTRE, 590 BRADMOOR BLVD., SHERWOOD PARK, 487-4481 Until MAR 30 "Abstracta," show and sale by members of the Art Society of Strathcona County. Hours: Sat 10 am-6 pm (except holiday weekends). Tue-Sat 9-5 pm. Info: 487-4481

**MANDOLIN BOOKS** 6419-112 AVE., 479-4500  
**MCMULLEN GALLERY** 8440-112 ST., U OF A HOSPITAL, 407-7522 Until APR 13 "Eight souls: Fused by Silver," photography by The Monochrome Guild. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-8 pm, Sat-Sun noon-6 pm. Admission free.

**NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE** 9704-111 AVE., 474-7611 Studio hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5 pm. Gallery hours: Mon, Wed & Fri 9:30 am-2:30 pm, Tue & Thu 9:30 am-4 pm & 6-8 pm. Info: [www.ninahaggerty.ca](http://www.ninahaggerty.ca)

**NORTH EDMONTON SCULPTURE WORKSHOP** 10546-115 ST., 482-2685 Until APR 30 "Autograph" sculptures and drawings by Rob Wilms. Daytime Viewing by Appointment: 482-2685

**OUT OF THE FIRE STUDIO** 12214 JASPER AVE., 378-0240 Info: [www.outoffirestudio.com](http://www.outoffirestudio.com)

**PETER ROBERTSON GALLERY** 10183-112 ST. Group Show, new works by James Leahy and Jonathan Forrest. Hours: Tue-Sat 10 am-5:30 pm. Info: [www.peterrobertsongallery.com](http://www.peterrobertsongallery.com)

**PETER ROBERTSON GALLERY** 12104 JASPER AVE., 455-7479 Group Show, new works by Gregory Hardy, Robert Wiseman and Frances Thomas. Hours: Tue-Sat 10 am-5:30 pm. Info: [www.peterrobertsongallery.com](http://www.peterrobertsongallery.com)

**PICTURE THIS GALLERY** 959 ORDEZ RD., SHERWOOD PARK, 432-3038 Info: [www.picturethisgallery.com](http://www.picturethisgallery.com)

**PLANET Z DESIGN CENTRE** 10205-80 AVE., 428-3499 Ongoing displays include functional sculpture and jewelry by Sandra Sing Fernandes, metal sculpture by Linda Maines and Bianca Khan, and paintings by Quentin Maki and Tim Rehrner.

**PORTAL GALLERY** 4300, 9414-91 ST., 702-7522 Hours: Tue-Fri 12-8 pm, Sat 12-7 pm. Info: [www.theportalgallery.com](http://www.theportalgallery.com)

**PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY** IN PERROW ST., ALBERTA, 460-4310

**ROWLES & CO. LTD. MEZZANINE LEVEL** 10130-103 ST., 426-4035 Info: [www.rowles.ca](http://www.rowles.ca)

**SCOTT GALLERY** 10411-124 ST., 488-3619 Until APR 1 "Dust of Days" by Robert Sinclair. Hours: Tue-Sat 10 am-5 pm. Info: [www.scottgallery.com](http://www.scottgallery.com)

**SCULPTURE STUDIO & GALLERY** SHERWOOD PARK, 662-4160 Figurative and abstract sculpture by Horst D. Info: [www.horst-sculpture.com](http://www.horst-sculpture.com)

**SELFIDGE POTTERY STUDIO** 9844-48 AVE., 439-9296 Hours: 11 am-5 pm. Info: [www.selfidgepottery.com](http://www.selfidgepottery.com)

**SNAP GALLERY SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ALBERTA PRINT ARTISTS** 10309-97 ST., 423-1492 Hours: Tue-Sat 12-5 pm. Info: [snapartsprinters.com](http://snapartsprinters.com)

**STRATHCONA COUNTY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES** 913 ASH ST., SHERWOOD PARK, 476-8189 Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-4 pm. Info: [www.strathconacountymuseum.ca](http://www.strathconacountymuseum.ca)

**STUDIO GALLERY II** PERROW ST., ALBERTA, 460-5993 Until MAR 29 "My Canada" by M. Anderson. Until APR 26 "Nouveau Artist" by Miles Constable. Hours: Thu 12-8 pm, Fri 10 am-6 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm

**TELLUS WORLD OF SCIENCE** 11211-142 ST., 431-3344 Permanent Exhibits include The Body Fantastic, Mystery Avenue, The Greens' House, Space Place, Discoveryland, and DinoDen

in the Explorer Gallery. Synchrone Science Stage features Science Demos, Cyrogenics, Electricity, and What Puts The Fizz in Soda Pop? Info: 431-3344, [www.odysseyum.com](http://www.odysseyum.com)

**TU GALLERY** 10718-124 ST., 452-9662 Info: [www.tugallery.ca](http://www.tugallery.ca)

**URBAN ROOTS** 10418-82 AVE., 438-7978  
**VAAA GALLERY VISUAL ARTS ALBERTA ASSOCIATION** 3RD FL., 10215-112 ST., 472-1731 Until APR 5 "Up Close" by photographers Robert Todrick and Niku Standing. Hours: Mon-Fri 10-4 pm, Sat 12-4 pm

**WEST END GALLERY** 12308 JASPER AVE., 488-4892 Hours: Tue-Sat 10 am-5 pm. Info: [www.westendgalleryttd.com](http://www.westendgalleryttd.com)

**WORKS GALLERY** 4200, 10225-100 AVE., 426-2222 Hours: Fri 12-5 pm. Info: [www.theworksart.ca](http://www.theworksart.ca)

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**ZODAK** 10826-95 ST., 428-0254 International crafts, artwork, and tropical flowers. Hours: Mon-Wed & Fri 10-6 pm, Thu 10-9 pm, Sat 9-5 pm, Sun 12-5 pm

## MUSEUMS

**ALBERTA AVIATION MUSEUM** 11410 KINGSWAY AVE., 457-1175 Edmonton busch pilot display in WWII-era double-wide, double-long hangar. Hours: Daily, 10 am-4 pm

**CANADIAN PETROLEUM DISCOVERY CENTRE** LEUK #1 DISCOVERY WELL, LEUK. Guided tours, tailored education programs for classes K-12, library courses and industry training, campground, safety and historical archives. Info: 1-866-980-4323 or [www.pc-cp.org](http://www.pc-cp.org)

**CITY OF EDMONTON ARCHIVES** 10440-108 AVE., 486-8770 Over 50,000 catalogued photographs and slides from the 1880s to the present. Two display galleries. Free admission. Hours: Weekdays 8:30 am-4:30 pm

**JOHN WALTER MUSEUM** 10661-91A AVE., 496-8787 Admission free, donations gladly accepted. Info: [www.edmonton.ca/johnwalter](http://www.edmonton.ca/johnwalter)

**LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT MILITARY MUSEUM** #118, PRINCE OF WALES ARMOURIES HERITAGE CENTRE, 10440-108 AVE. Hours: Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm

**MUSEE HERITAGE #5 ST. ANNE ST., ST. ALBERT.** 459-1528 Hours: Mon-Sat, 10 am-5 pm; 8 Sun, 1-5 pm. Admission by donation, suggested donation \$2.

**PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA** 8555 ROPER RD., 427-1750 Preserves the collective memory of Alberta, and contributes to the protection Alberta identity. Info: [www.tprc.gov.ab.ca/paa](http://www.tprc.gov.ab.ca/paa)

**ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM** 12845-102 AVE., 453-9100 Until MAR 16, Tuktu Prayers, 38 works showing the connection between artists and the wilderness. Permanent exhibits include "Wild Alberta" exploring Alberta's natural history; Synchrone Gallery of Aboriginal Culture; The Natural History Gallery, examining historic geographical changes in Alberta. Hours: Mon-Sun, 9 am-5 pm. Info: [www.royalalbertamuseum.ca](http://www.royalalbertamuseum.ca)

**DANCE**  
**AMUSE MAR 15, JUBILEE AUDITORIUM** Presented by Edmonton's Yohon Ukrainian Dance Ensemble. Tickets

at TM.

**CONTACT IMPROV JAM & MILE ZERO DANCE** All moves, musicians, and artists welcome. Info: 450-3336

**DANCE OF UNIVERSAL PEACE** 2ND & 4TH TRU EVERY MONTH, 7:30 PM, RIVERDALE HALL, 9231-100 AVE. Info: 467-1285

**RODA DE CAPOEIRA SATURDAYS, 1-2 PM, CAPOEIRA ACADEMY, 10540 JASPER AVE., 709-3500** A free performance of Capoeira, a Brazilian mix of dance, martial arts and music, invented by African slaves. Info: [www.capeoiraedmonton.com](http://www.capeoiraedmonton.com)

**SHOPS OF HOPE** MAR 8, JUBILEE AUDITORIUM Ballet to start of HOPE, Ukrainian to tap, a recital with over 700 local dance education and performance students in support of the Kids with Cancer Society. Tickets at TM.

## THEATRE

**A GAP IN GENERATIONS** UNTIL MAR 15, 7:30 PM, MAR 15, 2 PM, ROBERT TEEGER CENTRE CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, 73 ST. A comedy directed by Gilbert Allot. Tickets: \$10 Adults, \$5 Students/Seniors. Info: 479-8481

**THE CLOUDS AND THE MALCONTENT** UNTIL MAR 12, THE ATRE LAB, FIRST FLOOR, MACMILLAN CENTRE FOR THE ARTS Greck and Elizabethan plays performed by the Maclean Theatre Arts Students. Tickets at TM.

**THE DROWNING GIRLS** UNTIL MAR 23, CATALYST THEATRE, 8539 GATEWAY AVE., by Beth Graham, Daniela Vaskaiak, and Charlie Tomlinson. Tickets: \$18 Adults, \$15 Students/Seniors at TM.

**JOHN MIKADO** UNTIL MAR 15, 8 PM, SUN MATINEE: 2 PM, UNTIL MAR 15, 7:30 PM, MACMILLAN CENTRE FOR THE ARTS, 10404-155 ST. Based on the Gilbert and Sullivan opera. Tickets: \$18, \$12 students/seniors all the door, \$14, 59 students/seniors at TM.

**THE LONESOME WEST** MAR 19-23, TUES-SAT 8 PM, SUN 2 PM, THE ROXY, 124 ST. and 107 AVE. Two Irish brothers battle over the rights to their late father's inheritance. by Martin McDonagh, directed by John Arnold. Tickets at TM.

**TICKETS AT**  
MARCH APR 15-19, 8 PM, APR 20, 2 PM, TRANSALTA ARTSBARN 10330-84 AVE. One-man vocal performance features impressions of over 50 voices from The Simpsons in a production of Shakespeare's Macbeth. Tickets at the Fringe Theatre Box Office.

**MY NAME IS RACHEL CORRIE** MAR 28-APR 1, 8 PM, MAR 30 & APR 2, 2 PM, NOCH. CATALYST THEATRE Taken from the writings of Rachel Corrie and edited by Alan Rickman and Katherine Viner. Tickets: \$21 Adults, \$15 one-man patrons at the door or TM. APR 1 & APR 8, PNYC.

**RAPID FIRE THEATRE** EVERY FRI & SAT, 11 PM, VARSONA THEATRE, 10239-83 AVE., 448-0695 TheatreSports Fridays, Chimprovs Saturdays. \$10 at the door. Info: [www.rapidfiretheatre.com](http://www.rapidfiretheatre.com)

**SWALLOW MAR 26-30, 8 PM, LIVING ROOM PLAYHOUSE, AZIMUTH THEATRE, 11315-106 ST.** An icy comedy for a melting globe, by Lesley Kroll. Directed by Eileen Spradle, featuring Rebecca Stan and Laura Robbert. A new work that takes place on the shore of a tar sands tailings pond. Tickets: \$15 at TM.

**THREE VIEWINGS** MAR 13-30, VARSONA THEATRE, 10239-83 AVE. Three monologues in the same funeral parlour expose the personal obsessions of small town citizens. By Jeffrey Hatcher. Tickets at 433-3399.

**TWELFTH NIGHT** MAR 27-APR 5, 7:30 PM, TIMMS CENTRE FOR THE ARTS Shakespeare's comedy directed by Edla Holmes. Tickets at TM.

**LIVE COMEDY**  
**RAPID FIRE IMPROV** VARSONA THEATRE, 10239-83 AVE., 448-0695 TheatreSports Fri, 11 pm, Chimprovs Sat, 11 pm. \$10 at the door.

**THE COMEDY FACTORY** #408, 3414 GATEWAY BLVD., 489-4999 MAR 13-15 Tim Tim Tim. Regular showtimes Thu & Fri 8:30, Sat 8:30 & 10:30 pm. Info: [www.thecomedyfactory.com](http://www.thecomedyfactory.com)

**THE COMIC STRIP** BOURBON ST., WEST EDMONTON MALL, 483-5999 MAR 13-15 Carlos Alazraqui, Hit or Miss Mondays amateurs compete for audience approval. Tuesdays Alternate Comedy Night.

**THE LAUGH SHOP** LONDONDERRY MALL, 66 ST. & 137 AVE., 481-9857 Mar 14-15 Mike MacDonald, J.P. Fournier, Kerry Unger and Howe Miller. Tuesday Amateur Night w/ Kevin McGrath. Wednesday Comedy Challenge w/ Kevin McGrath. Info: [the-laughshop.ca](http://the-laughshop.ca)



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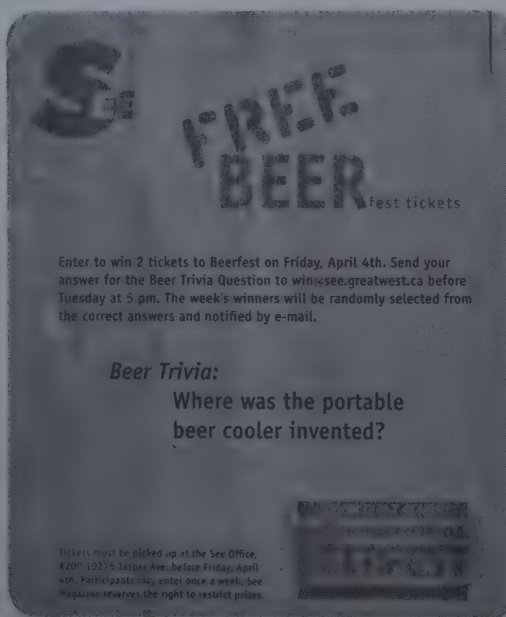
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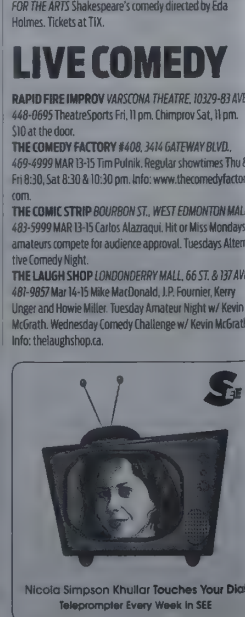


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**Beer Trivia:**  
Where was the portable beer cooler invented?

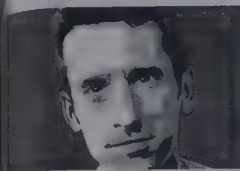
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SEX ADVICE 11/23 words

# You're Not An Outcast; You've Been Set Free



**SAVAGE LOVE DAN SAVAGE**  
**THE ASSHOLES IN YOUR HOMOPHOBIC HOMETOWN ARE LIVING IN PRISON, GAY TEEN—ONE YOU'LL BE ESCAPING SOON**

I'm in my final year of high school and I decided to come out as a lesbian—a very foolish move, as I live in a small town that's not exactly brimming with tolerant people. But I know there are other closeted people at my school and I figured if none of us ever take the first step, it won't ever get any better around here.

But the response from my peers was worse than I expected. It's nothing too terrible, no physical violence, and in the beginning I could cope. But it's been while now and I guess I need some advice. It just isn't getting

high school and out of your shithole hometown and get your ass off to college—to a big state school or private secular university—you won't be the only out queer anymore. Hell, you'll be surrounded by out fags and dykes and bisexuals. I can't promise you that you'll never encounter a bigot again, of course, or that all the fags and dykes you meet over the course of your life will be good people. But you will never again feel as vulnerable or persecuted or alone as you do right now.

And while you're talking to yourself in the morning, TALI, tell yourself this, too: "Fuck my school, fuck my classmates, and fuck this town." The shits conspiring to make you miserable, TALI, are unlikely to have lives anywhere near as interesting as the one on which you're about to embark. Your classmates are making you miserable now because they know, deep down in their little black hearts, that their lives are going to be duller than day-old doucheater compared to yours. Their lives aren't going to be dull because they're straight, TALI, but because the value they place on conformity—that's the

**YOUR CLASSMATES ARE MAKING YOU MISERABLE NOW BECAUSE THEY KNOW, DEEP DOWN IN THEIR LITTLE BLACK HEARTS, THAT THEIR LIVES ARE GOING TO BE DULLER THAN DAY-OLD DOUCHEATER COMPARED TO YOURS.**

better and I'm getting tired of it. I have to park two streets away so people don't write shit on my car, someone's hacked my user account and deleted important coursework, I'm either told I'm dressing like a dyke or "trying to be a girl," depending on what I choose to wear on any given day. I'm avoiding classes that I don't have friends in because even if nothing is said (though it often is), the atmosphere is horrible. And none of this is that big a deal compared to what others have to go through, I know, but I'm sort of at the end of my tether.

Reporting it to staff is useless because they just tell me there isn't any proof and do fuck-all. I've got some teachers looking out for me, but they can't really do anything either. I have some supportive friends, thank God, but it's all just becoming a bit too much, and I need some advice on how to cope through the last few months until I can get out of this shithole town.

*Tired And Losing It*

Here's what you need to do, TALI: look in the mirror every morning and tell yourself that is the nadir, the bottom, the worst it's ever going to get. Once you get out of your

home. Being the intelligent chap I am, I forgot to clear the history off the computer after looking at pornography one day last October. I got yelled at until I cried that night, and again the next morning, and every day for two weeks. I wasn't allowed to use the computer for a year, and I was forced to attend church nightly.

The electronics embargo has ended, so I can watch porn again

at least, but I've been forced into the closet by my parents. They both ask me every night whether I have a girlfriend, whether there are any cute girls in my grade, stuff like that. My mom tears up every time I say that I don't have a girlfriend. My dad sends me links to antigay articles that describe homosexuality as unnatural and an abomination. Once I made the mistake of sending an

article back to him countering his points about homosexuality and he stormed into my room and broke both my cellphone and MP3 player in half.

What the hell should I do about my parents? Will I ever be able to come out? Or will I have to lie to my parents and wait for them to die?

*Christian Parents Angry Chastise*

**SAVAGE cont'd pg. 47**

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SEX • ODOUR = ORGASM | 178 words

## Love At First Sniff



MY MESSY BEDROOM JOSEY VOGELS

**WHEN IT COMES TO ATTRACTING A PARTNER, THE NOSE MIGHT BE THE MOST IMPORTANT SEX ORGAN**

"I knew I would marry my husband the minute I smelled him," admits psychologist Estelle Campenni in the cover story of the February issue of *Psychology Today*.

The article is all about the role smell plays in sexual chemistry. (And here you thought you were finally being honest by shallowly admitting that attraction was ultimately about looks.)

According to Campenni's article, while sexual attraction remains one of life's biggest mysteries, "some researchers think scent could be the hidden cosmological constant in the sexual universe, the missing factor that explains who we end up with." In other words, it's the reason we

feel "chemistry" with one person and not another—and the explanation for why so many of us end up with people who possess none of the traits we claim to be looking for.

James Kohl and Robert T. Francoeur have been on to this theory for years. Their 2002 book *The Scent of Eros: Mysteries of Odor in Human Sexuality* brought together years of research on smell and sex, and they also claim that you may like everything about someone but if you don't like the way they smell, forget it—especially if they smell like someone you've turned up your nose at in the past.

"In reality," Kohl believes, "we make the odour association first and the visual association thereafter." Hey, blame it on TV: we've become a visual society, plus the fact that walking up to someone and taking a big whiff might be considered a tad impolite.

But Kohl says there's no need to bury your nose in someone's underarm to figure out if you like them. The connection is subliminal. That's because of things called pheromones, chemical molecules that are created when stimulated by something from our social environment—like a totally hot guy, for instance. These are not consciously detected "smells"... that is, until they hang out in your sweat and party with some bacteria for a while. That's when things get nasty and you cross the line from turn-on to turn-off. According to these guys, these subtle body aromas are hot-wired into our heads. "Pheromones travel directly to the lymphoid system, the emotional centre of our brain," says Kohl. That's where the frisky hormones hang out that subsequently make us stare and drool.

Francoeur, Kohl, and Campenni aren't the only ones who've made the smelly sex connection. Researchers at the Smell and Taste Treatment and Research Foundation in Chicago tested floral and perfume smells. Men aged 18-64 to see how odours would affect them sexually. One researcher threw in a fake cinnamon bun smell for fun and surprisingly got the most enthusiastic response. They decided to test a whole slew of food odours and, though some had a more stimulating effect than others, they discovered that all food smells tested increased penile blood flow. But before you go spreading cinnamon buns all over your body, the researchers admit that seeing a pumpkin pie was the biggest turn-on, it could just be a case of feel-good nostalgia.

Even Kohl and Francoeur agree that a big part of smell response goes back to memory and learned associations. Kohl calls this "olfactory imprinting" and likens it to visual imprinting for a duck: "If the first thing a baby duck sees is its mother, it will follow her around. If it sees a basketball, it'll follow that. Same with olfactory imprinting."

Following this logic, if you like the smell some guy leaves on your pillow, you'll probably start following him around too.

While no one's come out with an *Eau de Pumpkin* perfume, the fact that we plaster ourselves with artificial odours just reinforces how important odours are in human behaviour, says Kohl. "Our natural body odours are considered offensive, so we go ahead and apply animal pheromones, things like musk and other perfumes derived from animals."

VOGELS cont'd pg. 47

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**SAVAGE (cont'd from pg. 45)**

Your parents—your vicious, clueless parents—are abusing their authority and their power, CPAC, which can make it tempting to fantasize about their deaths. Hell, I'm tempted to come over and kill them myself. But your only option right now, I'm sorry to say, is to lie to them. Tell your asshole parents what their assholes ears want to asshole hear: "It was just a phase, Mom and Dad, I was just curious, I'm totally straight, Jesus is the only dude I'll ever get on my knees for, blah blah blah." Get yourself a fag hag, delete gay web-browsing histories, create and refrain from deleting straight web-browsing histories, and bide your freakin' time.

In two short years, you'll be an adult, CPAC, and you'll be able to come out to your mom and dad—and, even better, you'll be able to tell them to suck it. Demand an apology for the emotional and spiritual violence they inflicted on you, CPAC, and if one isn't forthcoming, refuse to see your parents or have anything to do with them until they apologize.

They're currently using all the leverage they have as parents to make sure you're miserable—aka closeted—for the rest of your life. Once you're an adult, CPAC, you'll have to use the only leverage you have—your presence in their lives—to make them into the loving, respectful, supportive parents you deserve, deserved all along, and that it's not too late for them to become.

Four months ago, my mom walked in on me messing around with my boyfriend in our garage. I'm also a boy, age 15, and I hadn't gotten around to coming out to my parents yet. I felt bad that my mom had to find out by seeing what she saw. I stayed in my room crying until my father came home. They called me down to the kitchen and told me they loved me and that they were very, very sorry if they had ever done or said anything that made me feel like I couldn't be open with them about who I am.

My boyfriend is 17. He came out to his parents at Christmas, and our parents met for the first time last night. We don't have a question. We just wanted to thank you and thank all the other gay people who came out back when it was much tougher to do so. Our parents wouldn't have reacted the way they did if it weren't for all you guys that already came out. We're Out Now

Thanks for the sweet note, WON. It's too bad that all teenagers, gay and straight, don't have parents as loving and supportive as yours.

Download *Savage Lovecast* (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at [www.thestranger.com/savage](http://www.thestranger.com/savage).  
[mail@savagelove.net](mailto:mail@savagelove.net)

**VOGELS (cont'd from pg. 46)**

Doesn't this throw us off the scent? "Not really," says Kohl. "You can never really get rid of natural body odour, but you can mask it, make it a little different. You're basically re-establishing a chemical identity for yourself once you've removed your natural chemical identifiers."

So does this mean that all our hard work on finding and maintaining relationships is futile, because it all comes down to "I don't like the way you smell, honey?"

Kohl admits that, unlike animals, which rely almost solely on smell to choose their sexual partners, we humans are differentiated by our intellectual capacity. And how much our intellect overrides our natural odour associations remains to be determined, says Kohl.

As someone who's always had a lousy sense of smell, suddenly some of my past relationship choices make a lot more sense.




**Nicola Simpson Khullar TOUCHES YOUR DIAL**  
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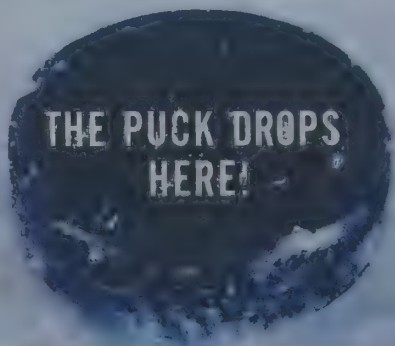
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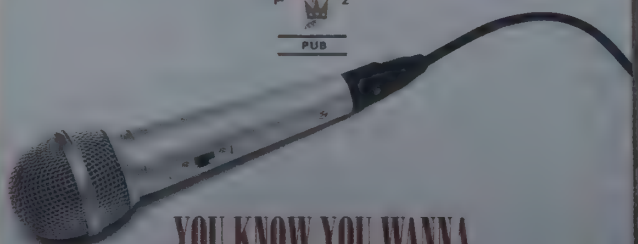
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## 130. Coming Events

**CEREAL SCHOOL REUNION**  
2008 August 1-2, 3 Attention to all former students, teachers, secretaries, 1960 - 2007. For more information, Muriel at 403-326-9818 or 403-326-3866

Learn to Meditate: Amitabha Kadampa Buddhist Centre. Thursday & Friday nights. 884-5705 or email info@MeditationEdmonton.org

## 190. Announcements

ARE YOU a new or expectant mother? Join the new Mom Registry today for free gifts or information. Please enter on the Web. Use ID 101. www.newmom.ca

**FARMERS AND ACREAGE OWNERS.** Help ARGO meet the world wide demand by growing a Medicinal Herb called Rhodiola rosea. For info visit www.argo.ca. Call 780-983-0199

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**NOW BOOKING INTO 2009!** Richard and Deborah Popovich's Entertainment Shows! Community parties, fairs, conventions etc. Audio/Video: www.RichardandDeborah.com Toll free 1-866-856-9282. Call now for free DVD!

**SEEKING OTHER CHRISTIAN** Identity, B.I. W.N. etc people in central Alberta. 88-14. Phone 403-704-6544 leave message

## 1005. Help Wanted

## 190. Announcements

The Edmonton Restaurant Slo-pitch League is having our annual AGM on March 16, 2008 2 pm at Rosano's Pizza. 11715 103 Ave Contact Tony at 964-5147 or Brad at 484-0668 for more info.

## 200. Business/Invest. Oppor.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY to own your own pet food business, turnkey for under \$10K. For more information call toll free 1-877-738-3287 ext 217 or visit: www.rpilesranch.com

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**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** REQUIRED for Property Portfolio. Familiar with Quickbooks and properties an Asset Bookkeeping. Monday to Friday, near Kingsway. Please Fax Resume to 481-0584 With salary expectations. Call 477-2311

## 1005. Help Wanted

Busy downtown salon/spa requires receptionists. Please send resume to: management@camel.ca

## NEW YORK BAGEL CAFE

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**TA Productions** is looking for bi-lingual waitresses, dancers and entertainers. Call 455-4666 www.tn4u.com

## 1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

**ATTENTION** Agricultural Journeyman Parts and Service Technicians. Did you know the John Deere Industrial Equipment dealers pay up to 30% more in hourly wages? Why not join the Brandt Tractor team at one of 5 locations in Alberta or 21 locations across Western Canada. We are also seeking resident technicians in Drayton Valley, Lac La Poudre, Watrous, Camrose, Vegreville, Cold Lake, Bonnyville and Wetaskiwin. Brandt has been recognized as one of Canada's top 50 Managed Companies for the past 3 years. If you want a great career with a rapidly growing and dynamic company, send your resume to: Brandt Tractor Ltd. Attention: Greg Davidson, 10630 - 176 St., Edmonton, AB, T5S 1M2. Fax 780-489-6891; cackland@brandttractor.com

**BIRCH HILLS Gas Co-op Ltd.** has immediate opening for gasfitter and/or utility operator. Experience in natural gas distribution and burner tip service an asset. Send resume to: Box 156, Wainman, AB T0H 3P0. 780-694-3868

**CAPT. AYRE LAKE** seeking mature couple for caretaking duties from May 1 to September 30/08. Further info: Karelyn 780-753-2935 Fax resume 780-753-2958 Deadline March 15/08.

**CARPENTERS/REMODELERS** \$25+ hour. Canada's leading home repair/remodeling company is seeking carpenters, remodelers, skilled tradespeople (M/F) in Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer. Apply toll free 1-800-884-2639 or www.handymanconnection.ca

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**INDUSTRIAL PAINTER** - applicant must have knowledge of operating and maintaining an airless painter, enamel and epoxy products, coating experience would be an asset. Apply to: Do All Metal Fabricating, Fax 306-634-8823 Email: jkorl@doallmetal.com

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**LICENSED HEAVY DUTY** Mechanic required for truck/trailer and heavy equipment service. Located in Vermilion area. C.V.P. experience is necessary for this position. Benefits, RRSP plan, competitive wages. Apply Box A c/o Vermilion Standard, 4911 - 50 Ave., Vermilion, AB, T9X 1A6.

**MILLWRIGHTS,** Plumbers/Pipefitters, ironworkers/fitters, carpenters/concrete finishers, equipment operators required for Tli Cho Logistics in Yellowknife, NWT. For information and to apply go to: http://tycho.com/tli/cho or fax 867-920-7328.

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## SMOKY LAKE Golf Club is seeking a Club House Manager.

Qualifications: Excellent public relations and communication skills. Please submit applications to: Smoky Lake Golf Course, Box 89, Smoky Lake, AB, T0A 3C0.

## SMOKY RIVER EXPRESS in Fairher, located in the Peace Country, has an immediate opening for a general reporter. Fax resume to 780-837-2585 or email: snrpxps@telus.net.

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Work from your own home. Becoming a salesperson. Monday through the hours of 5 - 9 p.m. Absolutely no selling. Earn up to \$15 per hour. Forward resume to: The Water Clinic, 850 - 47 St. East, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 0X4. Fax 306-242-1223. Email: rachel@thewaterclinic.com

## TIRE MAN REQUIRED for Tirecraft Grande Cache, Phone.

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## 1600. Volunteers Wanted

**DISTRESS LINE,** Youthon.com, Crisis Chat volunteers get excellent training, career-related skill development, rewarding experience and ensure those in need Q endorsement and a clean abstract. H2S. First driver and confined space. Vacuum truck experience an asset. Submit resume and current abstract to: Fax 403-548-8136. Email: trobin@newalta.com

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## Exposure: Edmonton's Queer Arts and Culture Festival seeks steaming committee volunteers

Visit www.exposurefestival.ca

## Heart Campaign: Kit assemblies between now and February 2008

we need you! Submit your schedule days/evenings/weekends. If you are available for three (3) or more hours per week, for three or more weeks, call the Heart & Stroke Foundation now and ask for Karen or Laura at 451-4545

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## Voices for Unity Fundraiser requires volunteers.

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

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**CAREGIVERS/NANNIES** with 7 months caregiver training are looking for live-in employment with elderly, disabled or families needing child care. Call 1-709-709-0005 or visit [www.worldwidecaregivers.ca](http://www.worldwidecaregivers.ca).

**2005. Artist to Artist**

**ACTORS NEEDED FOR INDEPENDENT FILM** March 17. Non-Union TV Crime Pilot to be shot Mar 17-31. Actors all age needed. Multi-day & Single Day. Call 780.633.9271 for more information.

Call to Artists: Looking to sell your handmade wares?

Do you make Cool, Unique, or Funky Handmade Goods? Then you should be part of the Spring Stop and Shop-Edmonton's Hippest, 3 day Artist Market. (May 16-18th the Transalta Arts Bazaar) featuring local designers, boutiques, as well as DJ's and performers to create an exciting and extraordinary shopping experience. Supporting our Local Artists and community. Applications and info available: [www.stopandshopshow.com](http://www.stopandshopshow.com).

**Edmonton Fashion Week** is looking for dancers, musicians and performers. Auditions to be held on March 15, 2008 and March 29, 2008. Both auditions will be held from 5-7 pm at Planet Ze Design Center located at 10055-80th Avenue. For more information please check out [www.edmontonfashionweek.com](http://www.edmontonfashionweek.com).

**Edmonton Fashion Week** is looking for models both male and female. Go See to be held on March 15th, 2008 and March 29, 2008. Both Go See dates are to be held from 5-7 pm at Planet Ze, 10055-80th Avenue. For more information please check out [www.edmontonfashionweek.com](http://www.edmontonfashionweek.com).

**Edmonton Fashion Week** is looking for models. Final Go See to be held on March 30, 2008 Sunday from 1-5 pm at Planet Ze Design Center located at 10055-80th Avenue. Auditions for musicians, dancers and performers will also be held on March 30, 2008 from 1-5 at Planet Ze. For more information please check out [www.edmontonfashionweek.com](http://www.edmontonfashionweek.com).

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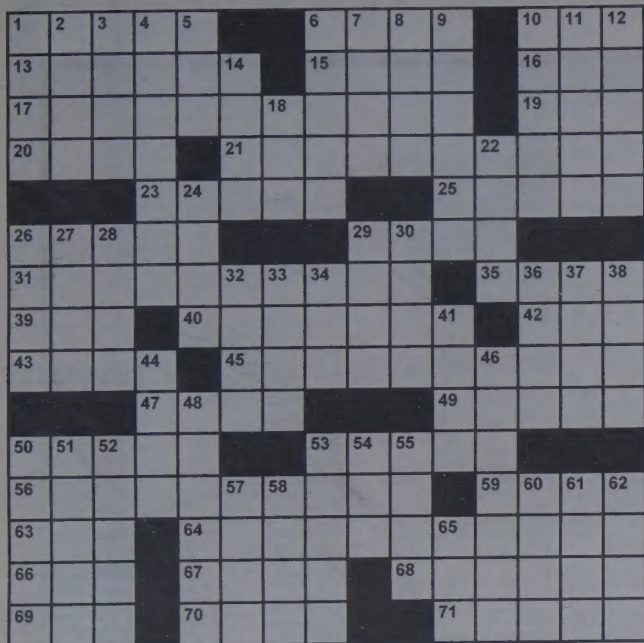
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EVEN VAL PRATE  
BOSS GOOTHABRAIN  
TOD ENT DECIDE  
EEN OYS STOGGLE  
SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

## WIIG PARY

CAST OFF, CAST ON

JONESIN' CROSSWORD BY MATT JONES

### ACROSS

- 1 Gather
- 6 Like your chances after hearing "fat chance," ironically
- 10 Legal gp.
- 13 Children's author \_\_\_ Mayer
- 15 Prefix for "mechanics"
- 16 Chum
- 17 Army who's an animal on the "SNL" set?
- 19 Type of tuna
- 20 The Ugly Duckling, really
- 21 Will's pet running around the "SNL" stage?
- 23 "Bubba Ho-Tep" actor Davis
- 25 Barnyard refrain
- 26 "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2" composer
- 29 \_\_\_ nitrite (hlicit inhalant)
- 31 Horatio holding the official "SNL" stopwatch?
- 35 Scotland \_\_\_
- 39 "Survivor: Micronesia" return player Cusack
- 40 King, London and Tan
- 42 It holds one of your balls
- 43 Bugle call at a military funeral
- 45 Tough Jane in the first "SNL" cast?
- 47 Exhibit, as with smarminess
- 49 Word flashed at the beginning of some video games
- 50 Rental car company
- 53 "Buns of \_\_\_"
- 56 Demand for Jay to appear on "SNL" again?
- 59 If you look this way, you'll miss the sunset
- 63 "I'll take that as \_\_\_"
- 64 Study "SNL" actor Bill?
- 66 Architect L.M.
- 67 "Million Dollar \_\_\_" (2006 "Simpsons" episode featuring Homer's dad)
- 68 Tahini ingredient

- 69 Word printed on a maze
- 70 Farm layers
- 71 Extra track on singles, often

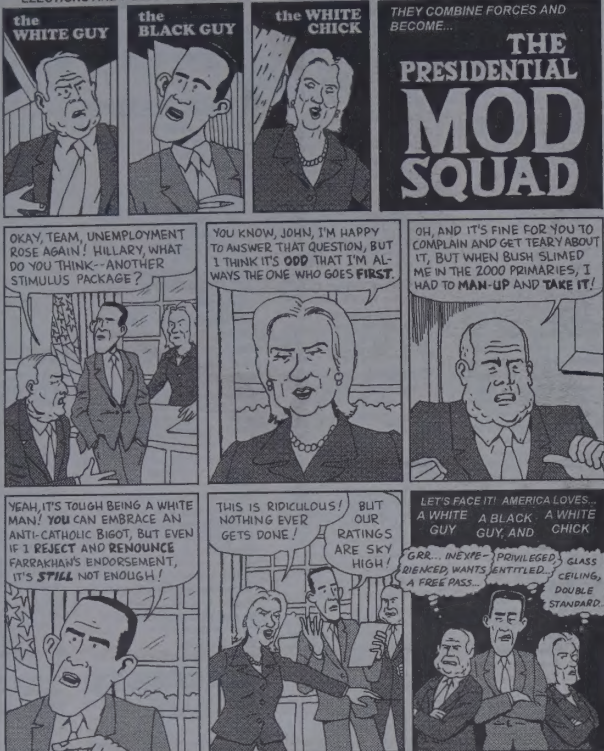
### DOWN

- 1 Concert blocks
- 2 SPCA noise
- 3 Square footage, e.g.
- 4 Big of nose
- 5 Poivre's tablemate
- 6 Buffalo hockey player
- 7 Give a skeezy look
- 8 "Dies \_\_\_" (medieval hymn)
- 9 Newsman Safer
- 10 Swiftly
- 11 Faith founded in Persia
- 12 Samuel on the U.S. Supreme Court
- 14 Playing field figures
- 18 Camping World competitor
- 22 "Flirting With Disaster" actress Tomlin
- 24 Stick in the trunk
- 26 Hurdle for lawyers-to-be
- 27 Ryan Adams song "If \_\_\_ Stranger"
- 28 Vasectomy sound
- 29 "Right on!"
- 30 Soldier for hire, for short
- 32 Looney Tunes animator Freleng
- 33 Huge part of a monster truck
- 34 Lance of the "Trial of the Century"
- 36 "\_\_\_ boy!"
- 37 Tara in the tabloids
- 38 Say no to
- 41 "OK!"
- 44 Not everything
- 46 Let out

### Tom the Dancing Bug

ELECTIONS AND POLLS TOO CLOSE TO CALL! TOO MUCH AT STAKE TO CONTINUE TO FIGHT!

By RUBEN BOLLING



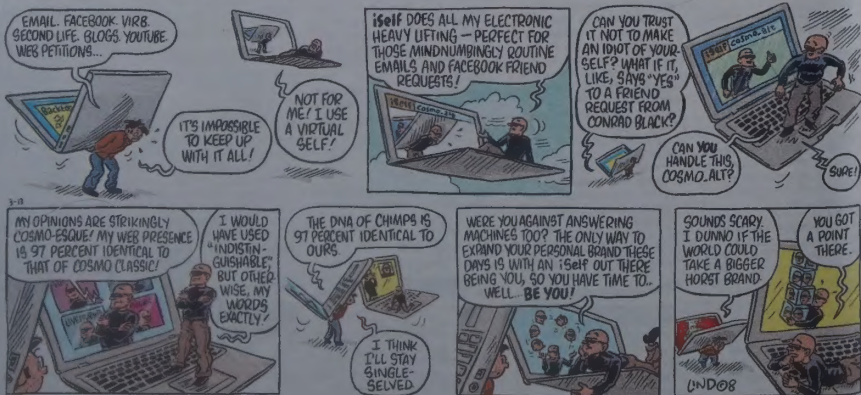


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INTERSECTIONS • PHOTOS OF OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS



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Seven-month-old Anastasia Ulan squeezes her mother's finger as the anesthesia wears off in the intensive care unit of the Stollery Children's Hospital on Tuesday, February 27, 2008. Anastasia underwent a form of open heart surgery called the Glenn procedure. PHOTO BY JOHN ULAN

FIRST PERSON • EDMONTON STORY • BY MINGUS TOURETTE | 986 words

## The Unclean Exhibition

THEY CALL IT OPENING NIGHT FOR A REASON

2005: Before rent doubled.

Shelley says she is too poor to buy wine and cheese for the art opening. I say I can't sink any more bucks into it either—spent 20K I didn't have on a pink ambulance and a doomed cross-country poetry tour last year.

She says it's not a regular art show anyway. She painted homeless portraits and I pencilled alleyway poems on the walls of the basement gallery.

Despondent, she asks who's going to be there.

Drunk poets, I say. Artists. Old welder and soldier friends. Hey, consider the subject. I'll buy a case of malt liquor for cheap and we'll drink that. She laughs.

Night of the show, we arrive for a print interview with a dozen 40 oz. Big Bears and plastic beer cups. No university profs attending tonight.

Local art critic asks good questions as we sit on the concrete. Why portraits of street people? We guess for

the paper and say the caste was too close to ignore in this city. Shelley traced the line and painted. We rap empathetic details as the critic fixes on that fine thread between artist and the curb. We all compare autumns lost to alcohol, bruising ex-husbands, \$300 basements, weeks of spaghetti-winters too desperate to afford a bus pass. Each of us, surprised.

I remember that year I made 12 bucks as a writer, saying artists aren't on the ground, but they can sure fucking see it from the basement. Especially if we're too proud and stupid to find grants or EI. And the same problems—too much drinking, heads fucked, not enough money to sue someone. Aberrant behaviour, ever walking away from loved ones when you can't.

Mostly, the show grows from Shelley's fascination with the faces. That look she's seen mornings, when the thin circles beneath eyes look like

scar tissue. How can you keep a dog alive if you're eating mustard sandwiches?

The opening works. I read loud, ugly poems. Shelley talks about painting and stumbling Métis in the library. Students heckle good-naturedly when I mention Kerouac's haiku. Fuck 'em.

When it's over, a young writer and an old photographer pal slam Big Bear with me at the bottom of the stairs. The shooter tells us how his marriage is caving in. He wanted to have an open relationship, three-somes. Now he's living with his ex-wife, her boyfriend, and his three daughters. He wants to sleep in the yard. After 15 years on the wagon, he drinks too much eight per cent beer. He's the second man thrown out of the bar that night.

Six of us clean the gallery after the show, step into the bright May evening with a couple bottles and a dozen unsold books. I sold just two, which didn't cover the beer. At least we didn't lose much money. We all bullshit on the curb near 105th and Whyte.

Two hippie travelers carrying guitars slow. Full-olive busker gear, dreads. The tall one, unshaven, his eyes pop wide at the near-empty case of malt. Asks if he can have one, barely breaking stride. Sure, man. Picks a 40 up, slides it in the ruck

and walks.

Awesome. My divorced friend says, "Now that is poetry." Best moment of the night. Better than the infinite hour I look down at my unsold books and remember slapshotting those bastards into Lake Ontario so the fucking fish could read 'em. Gnash the teeth at failure, look at the bottles, and get hard.

The malt liquor is kicking. Let's go to the Commercial: bikers and students. Shelley doesn't drink, anymore. But I do. We all do, poets and the old welder and soldier friends. Start hard, finish... who fucking cares? Two of the student hecklers kiss at the table near the dancefloor and get engaged a year later. Shelley finds her bearded husband and waltzes. Soldier shoots dark rum and grins, preamble to Afghanistan.

But my wife of that year and I are fighting. She supports this ruinous poetry gambit, but I am breaking things. What? For why? Three blackouts in a month. She asks me to take a glass of water. I pound another gin and tonic and leave the glass for her on the wood.

The bouncers have been watching. Three of us guzzled high-test beer, two are gone. When I left-jab a pillar on the way to the can and stagger, two big men in black shirts catch me. At the back of the bar, a bouncer lifts each arm and I rail 120 uncontrol-

lable feet at high speed, boots barely touching the ground. Could be a violent stop, but the trip past grinning bluesmen and pool tables is supernatural, surfing a grocery cart that never hits a stone. The bum's rush—a serene and endless fall from orbit.

The bouncers are complete professionals. They just launch me through the door, knock no teeth out. Good-night, boys. The welder and the soldier are there immediately, just in case. They know this old story—pound the beer, grab the jackets, hit the sidewalk.

After heavy laughter and a short fight with the wife, the soldier walked me home—I think. He must have caught a cab, I figure, and I must have needed a moment to uncake my head, scribble, and eat some pavement. Walked down 99 Street, into the river valley I guess, up left to that ridge overlooking the Low Level Bridge. It was still warm and I must have lain down to watch the clouds on the moon, between towers. Fell asleep beside a park bench in sight of the North Saskatchewan.

Before dawn, the sound of hustling magpies woke me, dragged me back to the apartment, to the basement before light. In the pocket, nine dollars and illegible half-poems written on a torn sheet of notepaper. In the mirror, rust and leaves on the jacket, eyes like rotting fishbags.

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